

Arizona School District Spending Fiscal Year 2020

State per pupil spending and instructional spending percentage continued upward trend, and State average teacher salary increased to \$54,814—a 13.3 percent increase over 2017’s average but short of 15 percent cumulative goal

Special study purpose

To analyze Arizona school district spending at both the State and individual district levels.

Key information

Per pupil spending

- After controlling for inflation, between fiscal years 2001 and 2020, total per pupil operational spending increased \$1,241, or 15.7 percent.
 - Per pupil operational spending represents how much money school districts spent for their day-to-day functions or activities such as for instruction, administration, and plant operations. This measure allows for the comparison of how much a district or the State spent for each student, on average, to other districts or states and the analysis of spending changes over time.
- During this 20-year period, there were substantial changes to Arizona school district funding through voter-approved initiatives and the State budget process, and changes likely impacted districts’ spending.

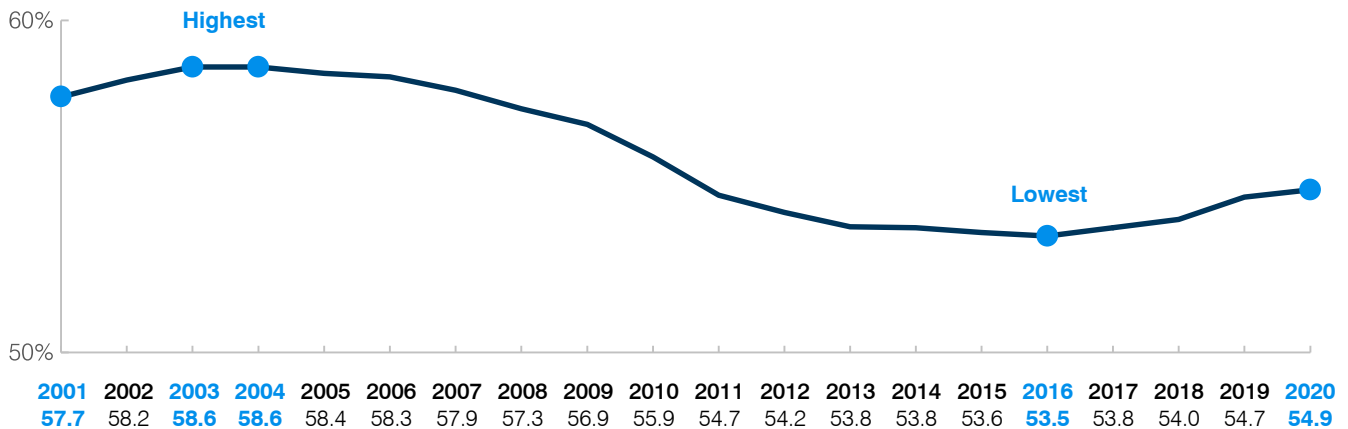
Students attending and per pupil spending by operational area Prior-year and 20-year comparison Fiscal years 2001, 2019, and 2020

	Prior-year comparison			20-year comparison (inflation adjusted to 2020 dollars)		
	2019	2020	Change	2001	2020	Change
Students attending	893,636	894,180	544	799,667	894,180	94,513
Operational area						
Instruction	\$4,869	\$5,016	\$147	\$4,552	\$5,016	\$ 464
Student support	754	796	42	499	796	297
Instruction support	497	513	16	343	513	170
Administration	903	936	33	839	936	97
Plant operations	1,027	1,048	21	975	1,048	73
Food service	438	432	(6)	391	432	41
Transportation	417	395	(22)	296	395	99
Total operational spending	\$8,905	\$9,136	\$231	\$7,895	\$9,136	\$1,241

Instructional spending percentage

- The State instructional spending percentage increased 0.2 percentage points between fiscal years 2019 and 2020 to 54.9 percent, which is 2.8 percentage points lower than the 2001 percentage when monitoring began.
 - The State instructional spending percentage represents how much of school districts' total operational spending was for instruction versus other operational areas, such as student support, administration, and plant operations.

Arizona instructional spending percentages Fiscal years 2001 through 2020



- Individual districts' operational spending varied, and although factors outside a district's control can impact how it budgets and spends its monies, districts that operated efficiently spent a higher percentage of their monies on instruction.

Average teacher salary

- The State average teacher salary increased to \$54,814, which is a 13.3 percent increase over fiscal year 2017's average but short of the 15 percent cumulative goal.

Intended and actual State average teacher salary increases Fiscal years 2017 through 2020

Fiscal year	Intended % increase from base year	State average teacher salary	Actual % increase from base year
2017	Base year	\$48,372	
2018	1%	\$48,951	1.2%
2019	10%	\$52,441	8.4%
2020	15%	\$54,814	13.3%
Future increase			
2021	20%	Future increase to be determined	