

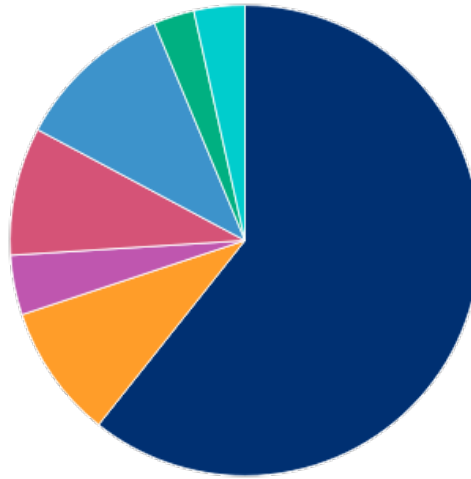
# School district spending analysis—Fiscal year 2021

## Litchfield Elementary School District

### District demographic information ▾

<b>County:</b>	Maricopa	<b>Students attending:</b>	9,937
<b>Peer group:</b> <sup>④</sup>	Operational 8	<b>Size:</b>	Large
<b>Legislative district(s):</b>	13, 19, and 29	<b>5-year change in students attending:</b>	6% decrease
<b>Location:</b>	Suburb	<b>Special education population:</b>	12%
<b>Number of schools:</b>	15	<b>English learner population:</b>	3%
<b>Graduation rate (2020):</b>	N/A	<b>Poverty rate (2020):</b>	9%

### District's spending by operational area



**Classroom spending, 74.0%**  
 Instruction, 60.7%  
 Student support, 9.2%  
 Instruction support, 4.1%

**Nonclassroom spending, 26.0%**  
 Administration, 8.8%  
 Plant operations, 10.9%  
 Food service, 2.8%  
 Transportation, 3.5%

For definitions of what is included in operational spending and each of the operational areas, see the “Spending areas” section on the [Glossary page](#).

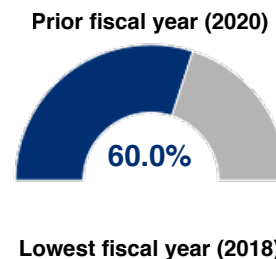
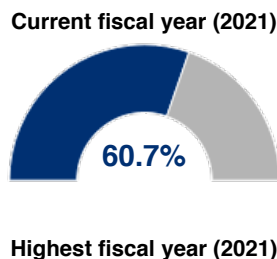
Every year, school districts must decide where to allocate their resources. This pie chart shows how Litchfield Elementary School District spent its funding by operational area, including the percentage it spent in the classroom and specifically on instruction.

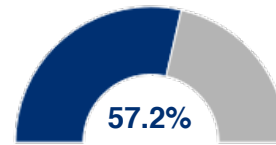
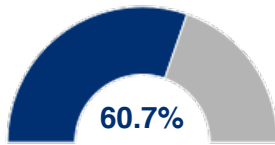
We categorize districts with certain similar qualities into [peer groups](#)<sup>④</sup> in order to help create meaningful comparisons across districts. Litchfield Elementary School District’s peer group had an average instructional spending percentage of 56.0%. This number can help provide context for Litchfield Elementary School District’s own instructional spending percentage.

We have monitored instructional spending since fiscal year 2001. Below are highlights from Litchfield Elementary School District’s instructional spending trend showing the most recent year-to-year change and the years it spent its highest and lowest percentages on instruction.

### Instructional spending percentage highlights (2001-2021)

Reviewing these instructional spending percentage highlights can provide insight into short-term (year-to-year comparison) and long-term (highest and lowest comparison) trends of a district’s allocation of monies to instruction. Depending on how much a district spends in total, even small changes in a district’s percentage spent on instruction can equate to large changes in the actual dollars the district spent.





### Why monitor school district spending?

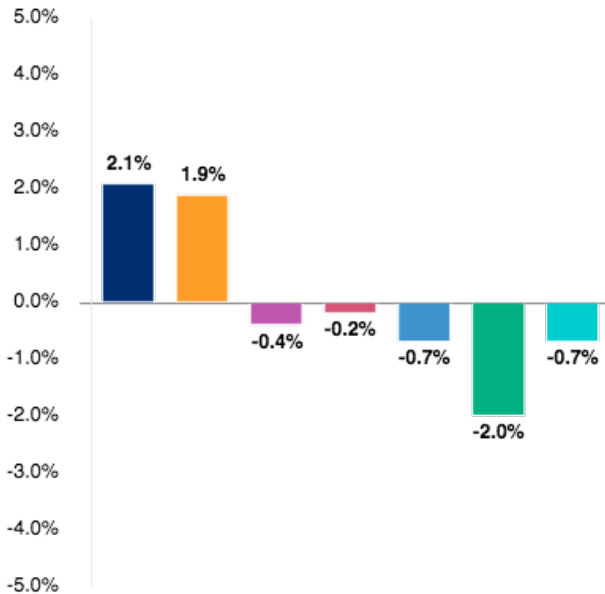
Most school district funding is based on the number of students attending, and districts can choose how to spend most funding, so every decision a school district makes to spend on one operational area directly impacts its ability to spend on another.

The bar chart below, "Percentage point change in spending by area," illustrates how Litchfield Elementary School District's spending by area has changed from the prior year and 5 years ago.

To put the spending percentages in context, it also can be helpful to review a district's per pupil spending in dollars. For example, 2 districts may spend the same percentage of their resources on instruction, but on a per student basis, 1 district may spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars more than the other.

### Percentage point change in spending by area

Compare State-wide FY 2021 spending to:  
District's FY 2016 spending (5-year trend)



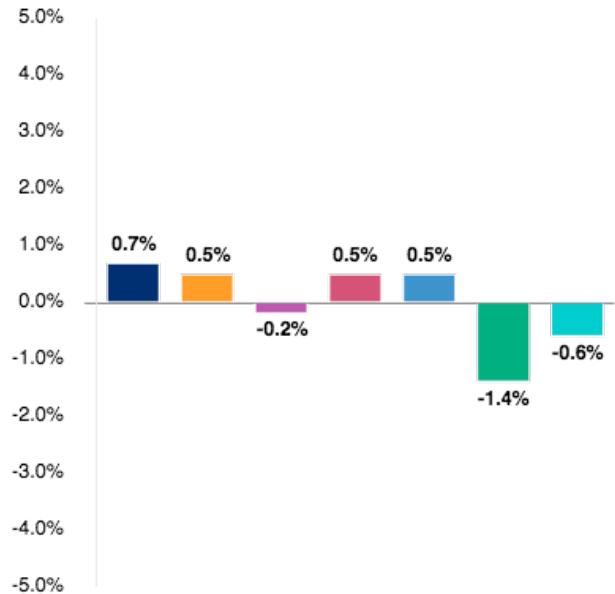
**Change in classroom spending, 3.6%**

- Instruction, 2.1%
- Student support, 1.9%
- Instruction support, -0.4%

**Change in nonclassroom spending, -3.6%**

- Administration, -0.2%
- Plant operations, -0.7%
- Food service, -2.0%
- Transportation, -0.7%

Compare District's FY 2021 spending to:  
District's FY 2020 spending (1-year trend)



**Change in classroom spending, 1.0%**

- Instruction, 0.7%
- Student support, 0.5%
- Instruction support, -0.2%

**Change in nonclassroom spending, -1.0%**

- Administration, 0.5%
- Plant operations, 0.5%
- Food service, -1.4%
- Transportation, -0.6%

Food service	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$270
Transportation	\$326	\$311	\$369	\$304
<b>Total operational</b>	<b>\$7,901</b>	<b>\$10,366</b>	<b>\$9,976</b>	<b>\$8,796</b>
Land and buildings	\$335	\$916	\$1,175	\$80
Equipment	\$373	\$733	\$722	\$299
Interest	\$161	\$258	\$303	\$162
Other	\$347	\$148	\$155	\$304
<b>Total nonoperational</b>	<b>\$1,216</b>	<b>\$2,055</b>	<b>\$2,355</b>	<b>\$845</b>
<b>Total per pupil spending</b>	<b>\$9,117</b>	<b>\$12,421</b>	<b>\$12,331</b>	<b>\$9,641</b>

## Operational efficiency measures

Performance measures, such as those shown below, can be used in addition to instructional spending percentage to assess a district's operational efficiency. We have classified the District's spending relative to its peer districts' average as very low, low, comparable, high, very high, or N/A (not applicable). High or very high spending when compared to peer averages may signify an opportunity for improved efficiency in that area.

N/A is presented for the nonspending related measures, for districts that did not operate a program in that area (i.e., food service or transportation), and for very small districts. For more information, see the "Operational efficiency measure calculations" section on the [Glossary page](#).

Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average <sup>6</sup>	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Administration	Spending per pupil	\$1,041	\$1,034	\$778	Very low
	Students per administrative position	63	67	95	N/A
Plant operations	Spending per square foot	\$6.84	\$6.64	\$7.03	High
	Square footage per student	171 ft <sup>2</sup>	161 ft <sup>2</sup>	136 ft <sup>2</sup>	N/A
Food service	Spending per meal	\$3.54	\$3.83	\$7.57	Very high
	Meals per student	113	149	32	N/A

Transportation performance measures are compared using different peer groups because we have found there are other factors, such as the number of miles a district averages for each rider, that impact transportation spending. In fiscal year 2021, we did not develop transportation peer groups for comparison due to the

