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## **Standard of Effort Report**

*Fiscal Year 2023*

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Executive Summary.....   | 1  |
| Section I: General Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balances ..... | 2  |
| Revenues.....  | 2  |
| Taxable Valuation and Levies.....                                      | 2  |
| Fargo Public Schools Mill Levy History.....                            | 2  |
| District Mill Value Comparison .....                                   | 3  |
| Average Daily Membership.....  | 3  |
| Local and County Revenue.....  | 4  |
| State Revenue .....  | 4  |
| Federal Revenue .....  | 4  |
| Total Revenues.....  | 5  |
| How Do We Compare?.....  | 6  |
| Expenditures .....   | 7  |
| Teaching Staff.....  | 7  |
| Teacher Salary and Benefits.....                                       | 9  |
| Average Days of Teacher Employment.....                                | 9  |
| Teacher Contract Days .....  | 9  |
| Licensed Support Staff .....   | 10 |
| Licensed Support Staff Salary and Benefits Expenditures .....          | 11 |
| Paraprofessional Staff Full Time Equivalent.....                       | 12 |
| Paraprofessional Staff Salary .....                                    | 12 |
| Other Instructional Expenditures.....                                  | 13 |
| Administration .....   | 13 |
| Operations and Other Programs.....                                     | 15 |
| General Fund Balance .....   | 20 |
| Historical Fund Balance Analysis.....                                  | 20 |
| Ending Fund Balance .....  | 20 |
| Enhancements to Education .....  | 21 |
| Adult Education.....   | 22 |
| Trollwood Performing Arts School.....                                  | 23 |
| Bluestem Center for the Arts .....                                     | 24 |
| Section II: Special Education .....                                    | 25 |

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Special Education Child Count .....       | 25 |
| Special Education Revenues .....          | 26 |
| Special Education Expenditures .....      | 27 |
| Cost to Educate .....                     | 27 |
| Expenditures by Category Type .....       | 27 |
| Expenditures by Service Area .....        | 28 |
| Special Education Funding Shortfall.....  | 28 |
| Section III: English Learners .....       | 29 |
| Refugee Resettlement in North Dakota..... | 29 |
| Program and Students .....                | 29 |
| Revenues.....                             | 30 |
| Title III .....                           | 30 |
| STEEP.....                                | 30 |
| State EL Weighting Factor.....            | 31 |
| Expenditures .....                        | 31 |
| References .....                          | 32 |

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## Executive Summary

This document is a comparison of Fargo Public Schools general fund to the finances of four North Dakota districts. Using data from the 2024 “School Finance Facts” and 2023 “Employee Compensation” reports published by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, peer district annual financial reports and information supplied by the districts, this report analyzes the characteristics of the most recent revenue and expenditure allocations. The following districts have been selected for comparison:

- Bismarck Public Schools
- Grand Forks Public Schools
- Minot Public Schools
- West Fargo Public Schools

The report is divided into three sections:

- Section I discusses revenue, fund balance and expenditure performance of Fargo Public Schools in relation to peer school districts in North Dakota. The general fund categories considered include overall revenue and expenditures, instructional and administrative expenditures, and support program expenditures.
- Section II highlights district spending on Special Education, including breakdowns of Special Education expenditures on a per-child count basis by program/service area.
- Section III provides a review of the English Learners program.

# Section I: General Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balances

## Revenues

### Taxable Valuation and Levies

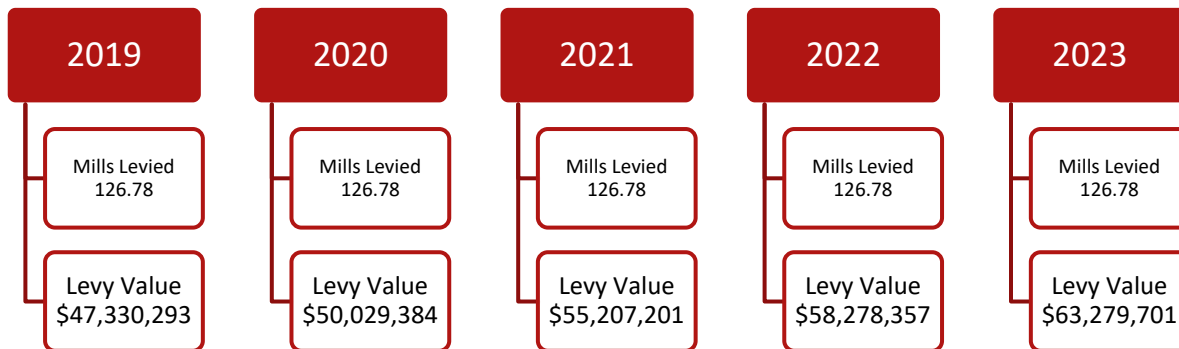
#### *What is a Mill Levy?*

The mill levy is determined each year by dividing the total amount of dollars needed by each political subdivision (city, county, schools, parks) from the property tax by the total taxable value of the city of Fargo. This, in effect, ends up being the percentage of taxable value that is levied or assessed in property tax annually. The mill levy is a composite of several entities' tax levying powers. In Fargo, since there are three school districts involved (Fargo, West Fargo & Kindred), there are three different mill levies.

#### *What is Taxable Value?*

Taxable value refers to a percentage of the city assessor's appraisal according to a state-prescribed formula, after exemptions are removed. To calculate annual taxes for a property, the taxable value is multiplied by the mill levy.

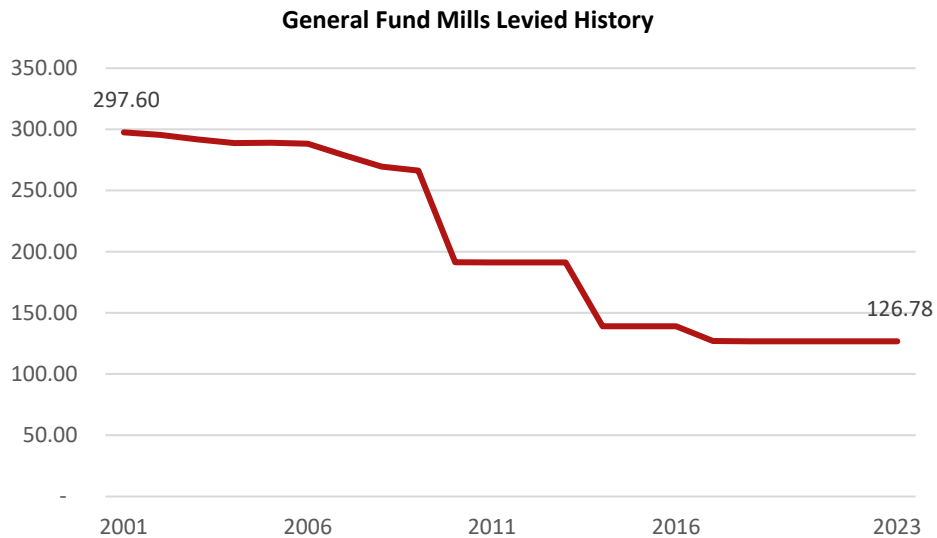
Fargo Public Schools general fund mills levied, and value of those mills for the previous five fiscal years has been:



### Fargo Public Schools Mill Levy History

Since 2001, Fargo Public Schools has decreased the general fund mill levy a total of 170.82 mills. By honoring legislative intent, 125.0 mills were decreased (75 mills in fiscal year 2010 and 50 mills in fiscal year 2014). 33.82 mills were decreased through demonstrated fiscal responsibility to relieve tax burden on property owners. Most recently, 12.0 mills were decreased due to frozen property tax revenue in fiscal 2017, with a slight reduction in mills in 2018.

Local tax revenue includes property taxes, tuition and miscellaneous levies, and other taxes received such as electric, telecommunications, mobile home, and tax credits. It is important to note that while all districts levy property taxes, other tax revenue sources vary.



### District Mill Value Comparison

The value of a mill is different for each taxing district. Bismarck has the highest per mill value and Fargo has the highest taxable value per student enrolled. The statewide average taxable valuation per enrolled student is \$46,692.

|                    | Value of a Mill | Taxable Value Per Enrolled Student | General Fund Mill Levy <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$618,095       | \$45,011                           | 79.48                               |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$544,898       | \$48,140                           | 126.78                              |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$284,972       | \$38,365                           | 86.00                               |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$240,127       | \$31,974                           | 83.35                               |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$571,527       | \$45,087                           | 80.11                               |

### Average Daily Membership

Average Daily Membership (ADM) is a count of the days students are enrolled in a district and is used for state foundation aid purposes.

|                    | ADM       |
|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 14,264.70 |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 11,736.80 |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 7,590.53  |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 7,820.18  |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 12,896.72 |

<sup>1</sup>General Fund levy includes tuition and/or miscellaneous levies.

### Local and County Revenue

Local tax revenue includes property taxes, tuition and miscellaneous levies, and other taxes received such as electric, telecommunications, mobile home, and tax credits. While all districts levy property taxes, other tax revenue sources vary. Fargo Public Schools has the highest tax revenue percentage and tax revenue per pupil membership.

County revenue is comprised of funds received from mineral resources such as coal production and conversion revenue. Only Minot receives county revenue. Other local revenue includes tuition, transportation, interest, student and community service activities, and miscellaneous sources such as rental income. Minot has the highest county/local revenue of the districts compared, due to tuition received for educating Minot Air Force Base students.

|                    | Local and County Revenue | Percentage of Total Revenue | Tax Revenue per ADM |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$46,874,041             | 23.0%                       | \$3,286             |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$67,546,395             | 33.1%                       | \$5,755             |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$31,792,172             | 26.2%                       | \$4,188             |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$33,133,866             | 25.3%                       | \$4,237             |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$46,979,549             | 25.6%                       | \$3,643             |

### State Revenue

State aid includes per pupil, transportation, state child placement, career and technical education, and handicapped program aid. All districts received more than 50% of their total revenue from state aid, with Fargo realizing the lowest percentage.

|                    | State Revenue | Percentage of Total Revenue | State Revenue per ADM |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$129,863,803 | 63.6%                       | \$9,104               |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$107,081,860 | 52.4%                       | \$9,124               |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$69,876,098  | 57.7%                       | \$9,206               |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$71,467,173  | 54.6%                       | \$9,139               |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$116,528,416 | 63.6%                       | \$9,036               |

### Federal Revenue

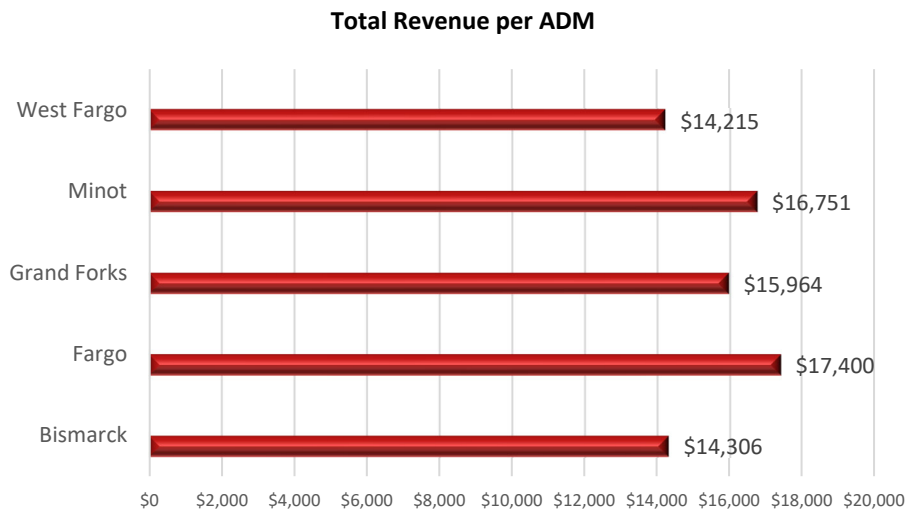
Most districts receive a small portion of total revenue from federal sources. The majority of this is pass-through funding from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) for programs such as Title I and IDEA-B. Grand Forks and Bismarck receive a significant portion of their federal funds through the Head Start program. Fiscal 2021 included the first round of federal funding related to the Coronavirus pandemic.

|                    | Federal Revenue | Percentage of Total Revenue | Federal Revenue per ADM |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$27,338,945    | 13.4%                       | \$1,917                 |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$29,588,638    | 14.5%                       | \$2,521                 |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$19,506,144    | 16.1%                       | \$2,570                 |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$26,392,092    | 20.1%                       | \$3,375                 |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$19,823,587    | 10.8%                       | \$1,537                 |

## Total Revenues

Total General Fund revenue is derived from property taxes, state funding, federal grant funding, tuition, and other local/county resources. Fargo has the highest total revenue per ADM.

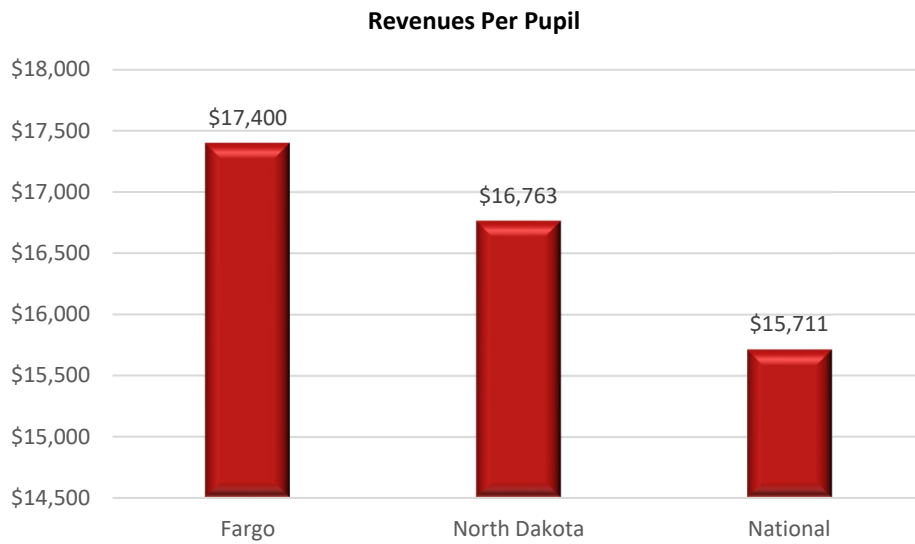
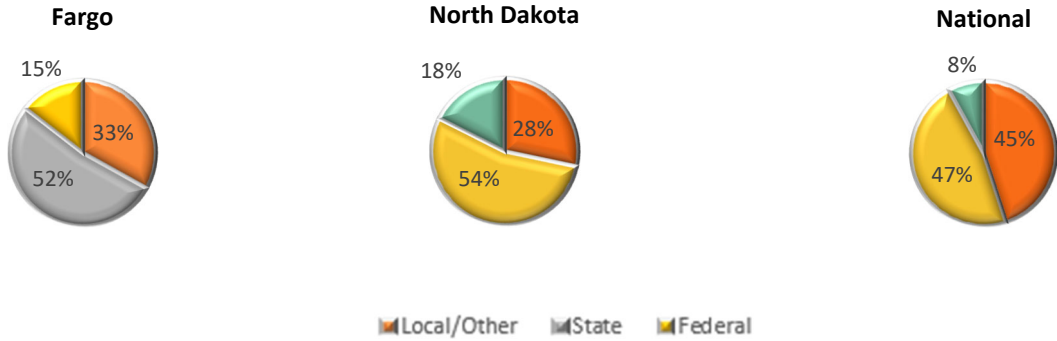
|                    | Total Revenue | Total Revenue per ADM |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$204,076,789 | \$14,306              |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$204,216,893 | \$17,400              |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$121,174,414 | \$15,964              |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$130,993,131 | \$16,751              |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$183,331,552 | \$14,215              |





## How Do We Compare?

According to the *Condition of Education 2023*, a congressionally mandated annual report from the National Center for Education Statistics, the funding breakdown of elementary and secondary public school revenue is shown below with comparison to Fargo Public Schools and the state of North Dakota:



## Expenditures

### Teaching Staff

Licensed staff employee compensation data are presented according to "Teacher " and "Administrator" categories defined in North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 15.1-02-13.6.

"Teacher" positions include the following: Coordinator, Counselor, Instructional Programmer, Library Media Specialist, Special Education Consultant, Pupil Personnel, Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist, Supervisor, Teacher, and Tutor in Training.

"Administrator" positions include the following: Asst. Director, Asst. Superintendent, Asst. Principal, Director, Principal, and Superintendent.

#### *Teaching Staff Full Time Equivalent*

|                    | Teachers | Other Licensed Personnel | Administrators | Total FTEs |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 891.0    | 83.0                     | 45             | 1,019.0    |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 935.0    | 113.0                    | 61             | 1,109.0    |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 596.0    | 74.0                     | 35             | 705.0      |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 547.0    | 78.0                     | 34             | 659.0      |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 947.0    | 126.0                    | 47             | 1,120.0    |

#### *Education Level and Experience of Teaching Staff*

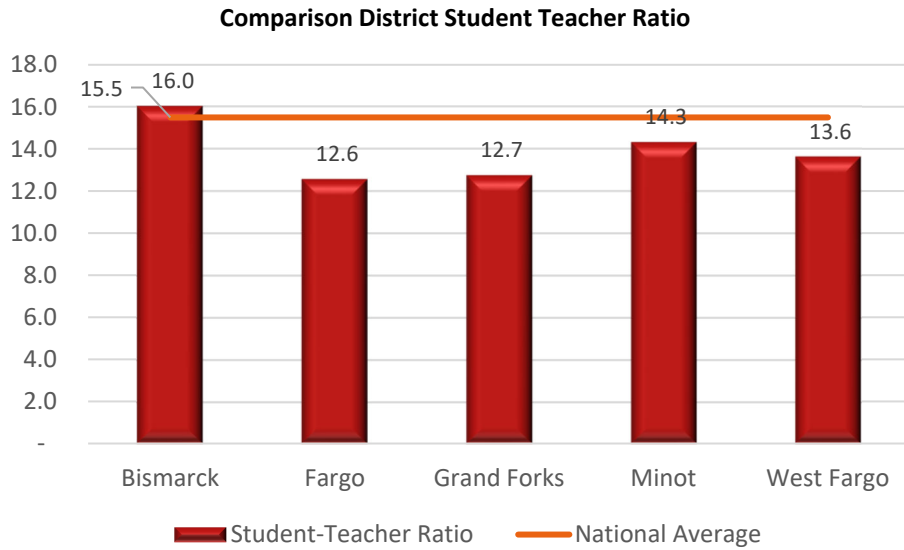
There continues to be an increase in teachers furthering their own education through a postbaccalaureate degree.

The following table summarizes the education and experience of teachers among the comparison districts:

|   | Grand Forks | Bismarck | Minot | West Fargo | Fargo     |
|---|-------------|----------|-------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Percentage with master's degree +</b>                              | 53%         | 55%      | 48%   | 41%        | 57%       |
| <b>Years of experience allowed at hire</b>                            | 11          | 12       | 13    | 15         | Unlimited |
| <b>Steps on teacher schedule</b>                                      | 25          | 25       | 12-15 | 25         | 12-18     |
| <b>Percentage of teachers with less than 3 years of experience</b>    | 12%         | 11%      | 15%   | 26%        | 20%       |
| <b>Average teaching years of experience</b>                           | 14          | 14       | 13    | 9          | 13        |
| <b>Number of teachers with emergency or provisional certification</b> | 2           | 0        | 2     | 8          | 3         |

**Student-Teacher Ratios**

The ratio of students to teachers is often used as an indicator of the resources devoted to education. The student-teacher ratio is obtained by dividing the number of full-time equivalent students (ADM) by the number of full-time equivalent teachers. The ratio, however, does not account for instruction time for students nor how much time teachers spend teaching.



**Average Class Size**

Average class size is calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled by the number of classes. The comparison districts report average class sizes for elementary students between 18 and 27 students. The national elementary and secondary average is 20.7 and 21.5, respectively. The North Dakota elementary and secondary average is 20.4 and 19.75, respectively.

Fargo Public Schools guiding preferences for class size are as follows:

| Grade Level                      | Classroom Enrollment |              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Kindergarten-1 <sup>st</sup>     | Target 21            | Range: 16-24 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> | Target 22            | Range: 17-26 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> | Target 25            | Range: 18-27 |
| Secondary Core Classes           | Target 27            | Range: 16-29 |

## Teacher Salary and Benefits

Teacher salary and benefits include instructional costs of regular, special and career and technical education, as well as federal programs, *including classroom instructional paraprofessionals*. All districts reported spending more than 50% of their total expenditures on teacher salaries and benefits. West Fargo reports the lowest spending while Fargo reports the highest spending.

|                    | Teacher Salary & Benefits | Percentage of Total Expenditures | Per Pupil |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$116,988,947             | 57.0%                            | \$8,201   |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$117,597,245             | 58.7%                            | \$10,020  |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$67,545,674              | 56.4%                            | \$8,899   |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$72,033,905              | 56.2%                            | \$9,211   |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$98,440,771              | 54.0%                            | \$7,633   |

The table below shows licensed teacher salary information for each district. According to the National Education Association, the average public school teacher starting salary is \$42,844 while the North Dakota average is \$41,587. West Fargo's salary information is listed as adjusted for TFFR.

|                              | Base Salary per Matrix | Base Salary Daily Rate | Average Base Salary | Average Base Salary Daily Rate | Average Salary  | Average Salary Daily Rate | Average Compensation |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>              | \$48,600               | \$259.89               | \$64,329            | \$344.00                       | \$69,672        | \$372.58                  | \$98,387             |
| <b>Fargo</b>                 | \$43,493               | \$228.91               | \$63,764            | \$335.60                       | \$72,058        | \$379.25                  | \$95,004             |
| <b>Grand Forks</b>           | \$42,977               | \$228.60               | \$58,774            | \$312.63                       | \$62,647        | \$333.23                  | \$75,343             |
| <b>Minot</b>                 | \$43,050               | \$231.45               | \$67,619            | \$363.54                       | \$72,816        | \$391.48                  | \$101,430            |
| <b>West Fargo (adjusted)</b> | \$43,539               | \$231.59               | \$51,690            | \$274.95                       | \$56,102        | \$298.41                  | \$86,010             |
| <i>National Average</i>      | <b>\$42,844</b>        |                        |                     |                                | <b>\$66,745</b> |                           |                      |
| <i>North Dakota Average</i>  | <b>\$41,587</b>        |                        |                     |                                | <b>\$55,666</b> |                           |                      |

## Average Days of Teacher Employment

The average days employed for teachers in North Dakota is 186 days. Fargo has the longest contract among the comparison districts at 190 days, which includes two additional holidays and a parent engagement day. Minot has the lowest with 186 days.

## Teacher Contract Days

|                    | Student Contact Days | Holidays | Staff Development Days | Parent Teacher Conference/Engagement Days | Teacher Contract |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 175                  | 3        | 7                      | 2   | 187              |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 175                  | 5        | 7                      | 3   | 190              |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 175                  | 3        | 6                      | 4   | 188              |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 175                  | 3        | 6                      | 2   | 186              |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 175                  | 3        | 8                      | 2   | 188              |

### Licensed Support Staff

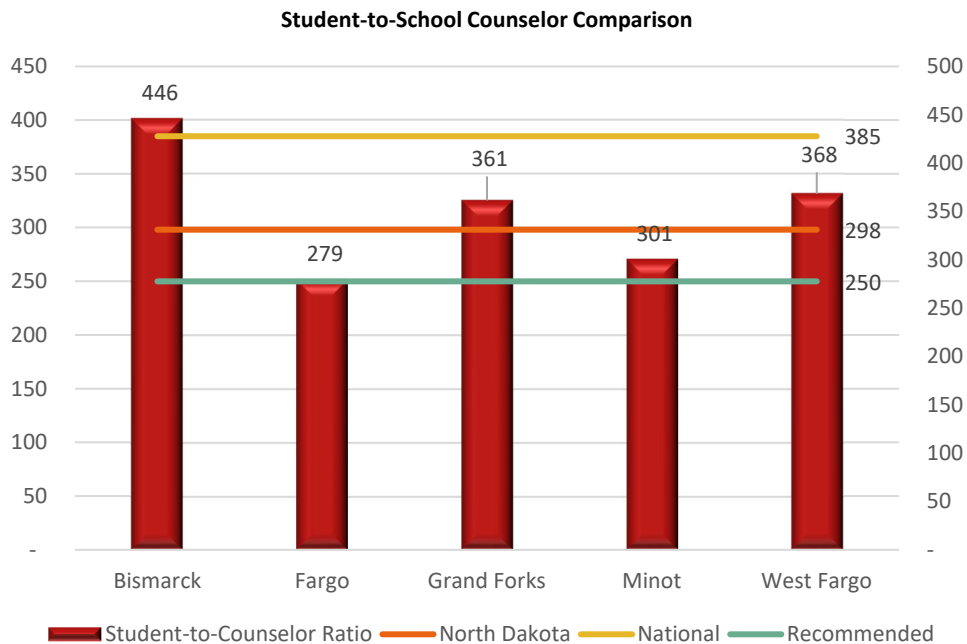
Licensed support staff includes the functional departments of librarians, counselors, and other instructional support staff.

#### Licensed Support Staff Full Time Equivalents

|                    | Coordinator | Library Media Specialist | Pupil Personnel | School Counselor | School Psychologist | Speech-Language Pathologist |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 6.0         | 15.0                     |                 | 32.0             | 2.0                 | 28.0                        |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 23.0        | 19.0                     |                 | 42.0             | 5.0                 | 24.0                        |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 16.0        | 13.0                     | 1.0             | 21.0             | 3.0                 | 20.0                        |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 12.0        | 5.0                      |                 | 26.0             | 4.0                 | 31.0                        |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 15.0        | 20.0                     | 7.0             | 35.0             | 11.0                | 38.0                        |

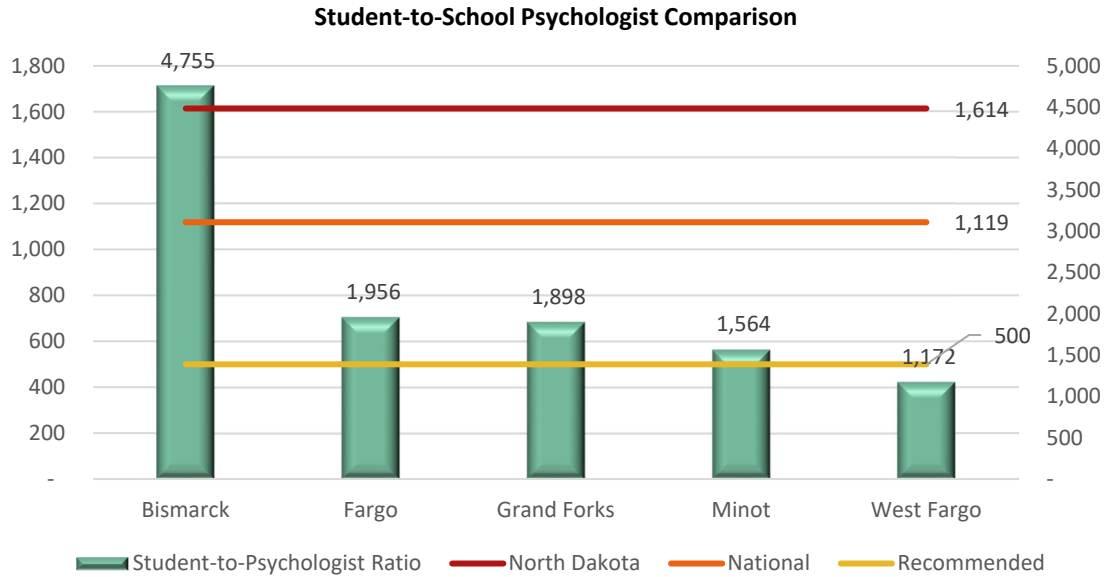
### School Counselors

The national average student to counselor ratio is 385:1 while the North Dakota ratio is 298:1. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends that schools strive to maintain a 250:1 ratio.



### School Psychologists

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends a basic ratio of no more than 500 students per school. Most districts do not meet this standard. The national average ratio is estimated to be 1,119:1 with North Dakota averaging 1,614:1.



### Licensed Support Staff Salary and Benefits Expenditures

Licensed support staff salary and benefits include instructional support costs of regular, special and career and technical education, as well as federal programs. West Fargo reports the highest percentage of support staff salary and benefits of the districts compared.

|                    | Support Staff Salary & Benefits | Percentage of Total Expenditures | Support per Pupil |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$15,802,638                    | 7.7%                             | \$1,108           |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$14,343,344                    | 7.2%                             | \$1,222           |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$9,959,066                     | 8.3%                             | \$1,312           |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$6,058,151                     | 4.7%                             | \$775             |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$17,065,945                    | 9.4%                             | \$1,323           |

### Paraprofessional Staff Full Time Equivalent

Paraprofessional staff are those trained to assist other professionals but do not themselves have professional licensure. Since the onset of the pandemic, the district has experienced shortages in filling these positions. Fargo Public Schools employs the following paraprofessional positions:

|  | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Special Needs, English Language, Regular Ed, Testing Proctor, Para | 315        | 305        | 284        | 300        | 304        |
| Registered/Positive/Behavior Technician                            | 11         | 1          | 2          | 15         | 42         |
| Print Center Clerk   | 5          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          |
| IT/Help Desk   | 7          | 8          | 8          | 9          | 7          |
| Security Proctor   | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          |
| Library/Library Assistant Para                                     | 30         | 31         | 31         | 32         | 28         |
| <b>Total Paraprofessional FTEs</b>                                 | <b>372</b> | <b>353</b> | <b>334</b> | <b>364</b> | <b>389</b> |

### Paraprofessional Staff Salary

Paraprofessional salary expenditures have increased 18.0% over the past five years with an average increase of 5.8% per year.



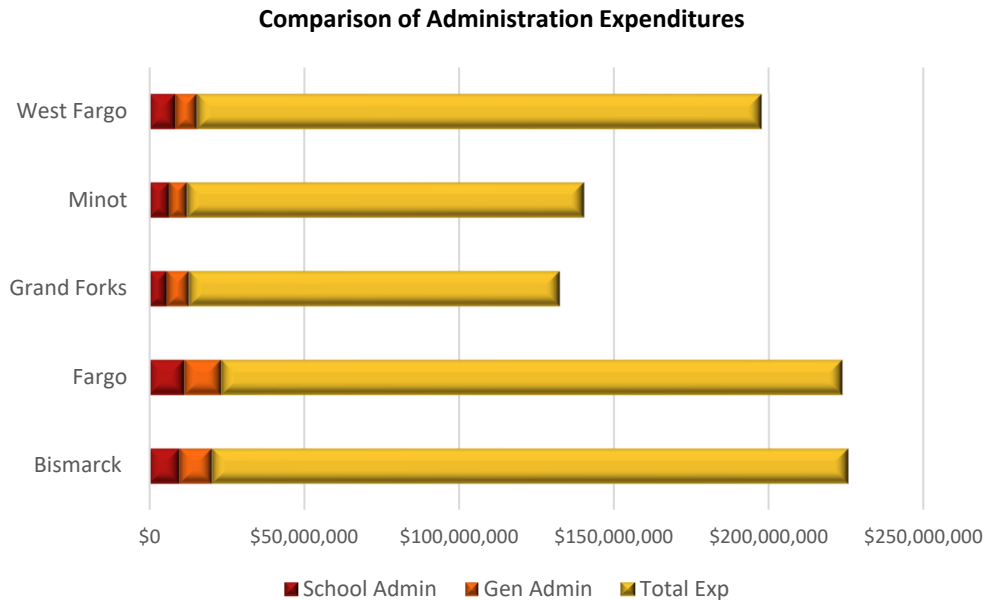
### Other Instructional Expenditures

Other instructional expenditures include contracted services, supplies, books, and equipment, including technology related items.

|                    | Other Instructional Expenditures | Percentage of Total Expenditures |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$8,194,731                      | 4.0%                             |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$10,550,104                     | 5.3%                             |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$8,503,092                      | 7.1%                             |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$6,346,420                      | 5.0%                             |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$14,149,539                     | 7.8%                             |

### Administration

Administration expenditures include those items related to school administration (principal’s office) and general administration (school board, special area administration, business office and other support services). The chart below depicts the percentages expended for school administration and general administration compared to total expenditures for each of the comparison Districts.





**Administration Full Time Equivalent**

Administration full time equivalents are those employees in the following administrative positions who possess a teaching license.

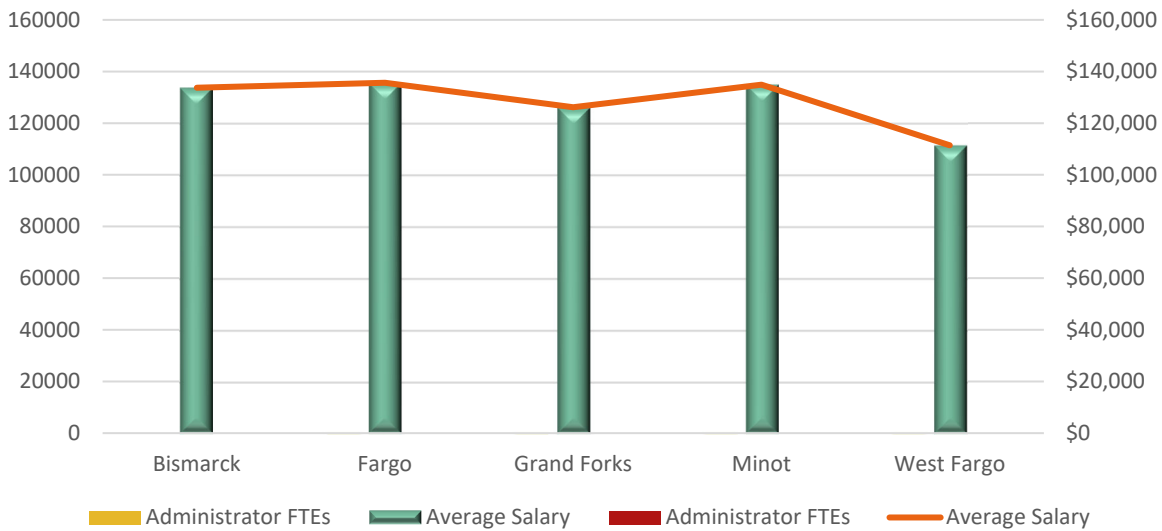
|                    | Assistant Director | Assistant Principal | Assist Supt Admin Assist | Director | Principal | Supt of Schools | Total |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 1                  | 12                  | 2                        | 5        | 24        | 1               | 45    |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 1                  | 28                  | 2                        | 6        | 23        | 1               | 61    |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 1                  | 10                  | 2                        | 5        | 16        | 1               | 35    |
| <b>Minot</b>       |                    | 7                   | 2                        | 5        | 19        | 1               | 34    |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  |                    | 18                  | 2                        | 5        | 21        | 1               | 47    |

**Average Administrator Salary**

Average administrator salary includes the base contract plus additions to the base contract such as extended time, co-curricular, signing bonuses, substitute work and other pay for those with teaching licenses. Note that West Fargo contributes both the employer and employee shares of TFFR, therefore, the salary amounts below are comparatively lower.

|                    | Average Base | Average Salary | Average Compensation |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$129,643    | \$133,716      | \$176,743            |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$126,316    | \$135,657      | \$174,014            |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$124,438    | \$126,186      | \$151,810            |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$130,580    | \$134,917      | \$178,002            |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$108,207    | \$111,458      | \$166,655            |

**Certified Administrator FTEs and Average Salary**



## Operations and Other Programs

### *Operations and Maintenance Expenditures*

Fargo Public Schools operates and maintains approximately 2.8 million square feet of building space in a district covering fifty-seven square miles.

In a continued effort to follow the district’s long-range facilities plan, Fargo continues to invest in neighborhood schools by ensuring the buildings are maintained to provide a quality school environment to all students.

|                    | <b>Operations, Maintenance, &amp; Capital<br/>Project Expenditures</b> | <b>Percentage of Total Expenditures</b> |
|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$18,914,604   | 9.2%                                    |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$18,721,038   | 9.3%                                    |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$12,176,807   | 10.2%                                   |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$22,086,120   | 17.2%                                   |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$13,211,595   | 7.3%                                    |

### *School Facilities*

The following table summarizes the current school facilities operated by each district by instructional level.

|                    | <b>Elementary</b> | <b>Middle</b> | <b>High</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 18                | 3             | 4           | 5            | 30           |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 16                | 3             | 4           | 5            | 28           |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 13                | 3             | 3           | 2            | 21           |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 12                | 3             | 4           | 2            | 21           |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 15                | 3             | 4           | 5            | 27           |

### *Custodial Staff Analysis*

The Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) custodial staffing guidelines for Educational Facilities specifies five levels of cleanliness that many institutions use to manage cleaning efforts:

- Level 1: Orderly Spotlessness
- Level 2: Ordinary Tidiness
- Level 3: Casual Inattention
- Level 4: Moderate Dinginess
- Level 5: Unkempt Neglect

The accepted level of cleanliness for school buildings is Level 3 cleaning which assumes a custodian can clean 28,000 - 31,000 square feet in an 8-hour shift, with the mean being 29,500 sq. ft.

Level 3 cleaning indicates garbage is emptied daily, floors are swept or vacuumed daily, restrooms are cleaned, and disinfected daily, common areas are swept or vacuumed daily, and dusting, white board cleaning, and glass cleaning are done on a regular basis.

In Fargo Public Schools, staffing also accounts for the following factors:

- Secondary engineers do not have an area to clean daily as their job duties require tasks such as HVAC work, a larger share of grounds work, scheduling, repairs, preventive maintenance work orders, etc.
- Elementary engineers do have an area to clean daily, but it is not an 8-hour assignment.
- Not all areas within the building are cleaned daily. Mechanical rooms and storage spaces must be removed from the calculation to determine daily cleanable square footage.

| No. of Properties          | Total Square Footage | Daily Cleanable Square Footage | Total Maintenance FTEs | Maintenance FTEs Cleaning Daily | Average Square Footage Cleaned per Staff Member |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 28                         | 2,876,435            | 2,655,208                      | 105.0                  | 84.0                            | 854,171   |
| <b>Building</b>            |                      |                                |                        |                                 |   |
| <b>Agassiz</b>             | 180,600              | 157,170                        | 5.0                    | 4.0                             | 39,293  |
| <b>Ben Franklin</b>        | 202,064              | 187,920                        | 6.5                    | 5.75                            | 32,682  |
| <b>Bennett</b>             | 90,268               | 81,241                         | 3.5                    | 2.5                             | 32,496  |
| <b>Carl Ben Eielson</b>    | 178,802              | 166,285                        | 6.0                    | 5.0                             | 33,257  |
| <b>Centennial</b>          | 88,519               | 79,667                         | 4.0                    | 3.0                             | 26,556  |
| <b>Clara Barton</b>        | 54,968               | 49,471                         | 2.0                    | 2.0                             | 24,736  |
| <b>Davies</b>              | 290,000              | 269,700                        | 9.0                    | 8.25                            | 32,690  |
| <b>Discovery</b>           | 210,000              | 195,300                        | 6.5                    | 5.5                             | 35,509  |
| <b>Eagles</b>              | 83,906               | 67,586                         | 3.5                    | 2.5                             | 27,034  |
| <b>Ed Clapp</b>            | 83,978               | 75,580                         | 4.0                    | 3.0                             | 25,193  |
| <b>Explorer Academy</b>    | 45,305               | 40,775                         | 2.0                    | 2.0                             | 27,183  |
| <b>Hawthorne</b>           | 35,719               | 32,147                         | 2.0                    | 1.25                            | 25,717  |
| <b>Horace Mann</b>         | 43,856               | 39,470                         | 2.0                    | 1.25                            | 31,576  |
| <b>Jefferson</b>           | 60,637               | 54,573                         | 2.5                    | 1.75                            | 31,184  |
| <b>Kennedy</b>             | 92,774               | 83,496                         | 4.0                    | 3.0                             | 26,900  |
| <b>Lewis and Clark</b>     | 73,821               | 66,438                         | 4.0                    | 2.75                            | 24,159  |
| <b>Lincoln</b>             | 75,000               | 67,500                         | 3.5                    | 2.5                             | 27,000  |
| <b>Longfellow</b>          | 73,266               | 65,939                         | 3.0                    | 2.0                             | 32,969  |
| <b>Madison</b>             | 44,010               | 39,609                         | 2.25                   | 1.25                            | 31,687  |
| <b>McKinley</b>            | 39,147               | 35,232                         | 2.0                    | 1.0                             | 35,232  |
| <b>North</b>               | 287,824              | 267,676                        | 8.0                    | 7.25                            | 36,920  |
| <b>Roosevelt</b>           | 46,943               | 43,656                         | 1.75                   | 0.75                            | 29,249  |
| <b>South</b>               | 316,768              | 294,594                        | 10.0                   | 9.25                            | 31,848  |
| <b>Trollwood</b>           | 47,935               | 44,579                         | 1.0                    | 1.0                             | 44,579  |
| <b>Washington</b>          | 74,287               | 66,858                         | 3.0                    | 2.25                            | 29,714  |
| <b>District Office Old</b> | 19,626               | 17,663                         | 1.0                    | 1.0                             | 23,510  |
| <b>District Office New</b> | 43,478               | 39,130                         | 2.0                    | 1.25                            | 29,347  |
| <b>Operations Center</b>   | 66,681               | 25,953                         | 1.0                    | 1.0                             | 25,953  |

*Student Transportation Expenditures*

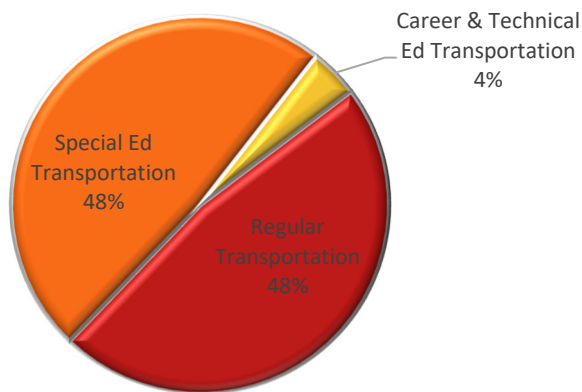
Student transportation expenditures include regular, special and career and technical education transportation. Transportation relating to extracurricular activities is not included in the following analysis.

|                    | Student Transportation Expenditures | Percentage of Total Expenditures | Per Pupil Transportation Cost |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$5,648,581                         | 2.8%                             | \$396                         |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$6,788,785                         | 3.4%                             | \$578                         |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$1,389,640                         | 1.2%                             | \$183                         |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$1,338,371                         | 1.0%                             | \$171                         |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$5,626,448                         | 3.1%                             | \$436                         |

Districts provide in city transportation based on walk-out distances. Minot provides transportation only for Minot Air Force Base students to high schools and rural elementary students in the BEL school attendance area, along with special education students. Grand Forks only transports special education students and students from the Grand Forks Air Force Base to Central High School.

|                    | Elementary Walk-Out | Secondary Walk-Out |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | ½ Mile              | 1 Mile             |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | ½ Mile              | 1 Mile             |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | Does not transport  | Does not transport |
| <b>Minot</b>       | Does not transport  | Does not transport |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 1.0 mile            | 1.5 miles          |

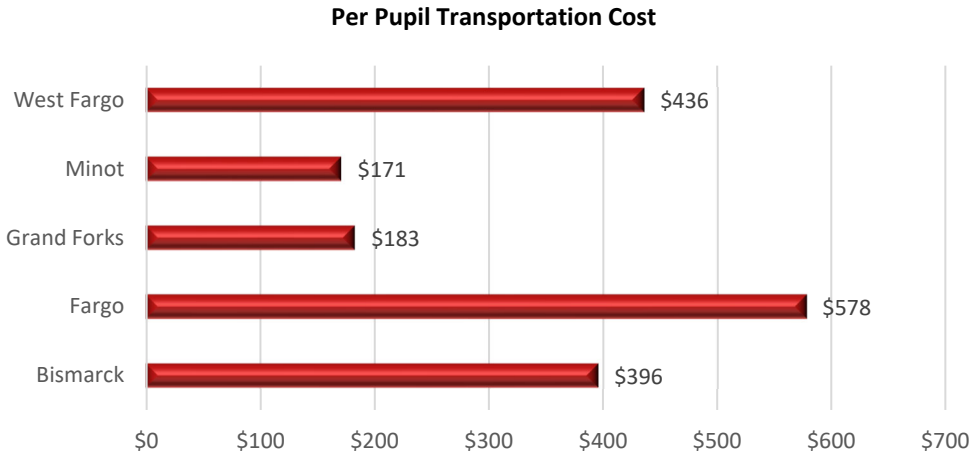
**Fargo Transportation Costs**



While most states provide some funding to school districts for transportation, the amount varies widely. During the 2023 school year, the NDDPI provided the District transportation reimbursement in the amount of \$1,098,431, or about 16% of bussing costs, based on school year 2022 transportation information. The reimbursement formula is based on both miles and rides.

The District’s 2023 transportation data is provided in the following table:

| Route Type    | Vehicle Count | Vehicle Capacity | Total Annual Runs | Total Annual Rides | Total Miles    | Rides per Run | Miles Per Run | Max Ride Time in Minutes |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Extended Year | 33            | 23               | 1,188             | 7,982              | 8,748          | 6.72          | 7.36          | 39.00                    |
| In City       | 49            | 79               | 29,237            | 975,806            | 195,871        | 33.38         | 6.70          | 17.00                    |
| Rural         | 3             | 77               | 1,155             | 20,460             | 37,215         | 17.71         | 32.14         | 50.00                    |
| Special Ed    | 52            | 22               | 12,720            | 111,250            | 290,017        | 8.75          | 22.80         | 50.00                    |
| Vocational Ed | 2             | 23               | 5,915             | 17,45              | 38,363         | 3.00          | 6.49          | 20.00                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>139</b>    | <b>25</b>        | <b>50,215</b>     | <b>1,133,243</b>   | <b>570,125</b> | <b>13.91</b>  | <b>11.35</b>  | <b>35.20</b>             |

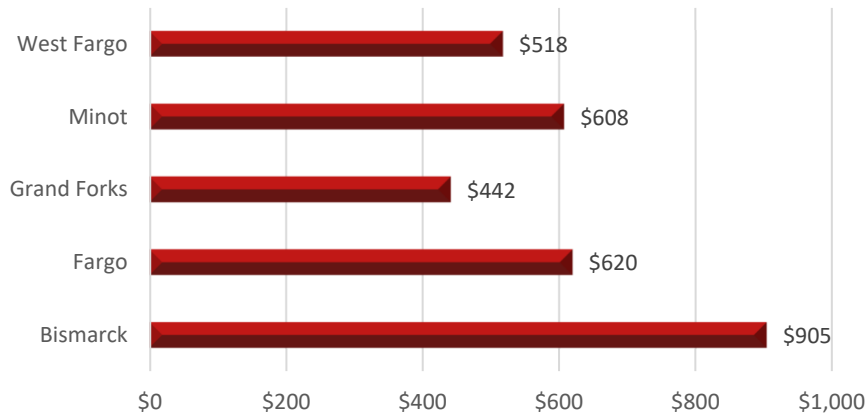


**Extracurricular Expenditures**

It is important to note that school districts apply different methods in reporting student activities expenditures. Some expenditures are reported through the general fund while others are reported through the student activities fund. The table below represents expenditures accounted for through both funds.

|                    | Student Activities Fund | General Fund | Total Extracurricular Expenditures |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$5,948,250             | \$6,959,996  | \$12,908,245                       |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$7,003,527             | \$275,537    | \$7,279,064                        |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$991,753               | \$2,360,075  | \$3,351,828                        |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$1,389,616             | \$3,362,898  | \$4,752,514                        |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$6,020,830             | \$659,173    | \$6,680,003                        |

**Per Pupil Extracurricular Cost**



**Other Program Expenditures**

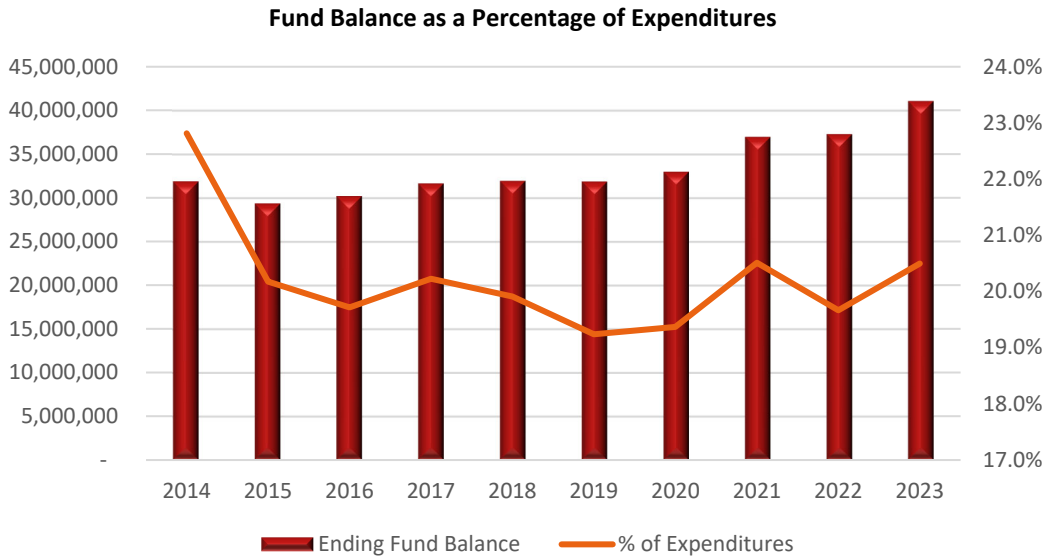
Other program expenditures include Head Start, adult education, tuition for students attending school outside of their home district, debt service payments and fund transfers.

|                    | Adult, Community & Enterprise Services Expenditures | Tuition Expenditures | Debt Service & Transfer Expenditures | Total All Other Expenditures | Percentage of Total Expenditures |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$4,852,664   | \$1,667,565          | \$9,987,082                          | \$16,507,311                 | 8.0%                             |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$1,276,535   | \$1,803,122          | \$4,499,863                          | \$7,579,520                  | 3.8%                             |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$314,930   | \$1,045,557          | \$404,448                            | \$1,764,935                  | 1.5%                             |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$3,078,536   | \$1,062,291          | \$664,389                            | \$4,805,216                  | 3.8%                             |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$1,763,338   | \$1,666,397          | \$6,626,847                          | \$10,056,581                 | 5.5%                             |

## General Fund Balance

### Historical Fund Balance Analysis

The chart below displays Fargo Public School’s general fund balance as a percentage of expenditures for the past ten years. Although expenditures have risen, the general fund balance has averaged 20.2%.



### Ending Fund Balance

When comparing ending general fund balances, Fargo had the highest ending funding balance of the districts evaluated at \$41.1 million, representing approximately 2.5 months of operating expenditures. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends, at a minimum, that general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain unrestricted budgetary fund balance in their general fund of no less than two months of regular general fund operating revenues or regular general fund operating expenditures.

|                    | Ending Fund Balance | Total Expenditures | Percentage of Expenditures | Months Operating Expenditures |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$15,289,000        | \$205,366,505      | 7.4%                       | 0.89                          |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$41,078,050        | \$200,417,303      | 20.5%                      | 2.46                          |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$8,883,651         | \$119,678,630      | 7.4%                       | 0.89                          |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$22,521,925        | \$128,098,639      | 17.6%                      | 2.11                          |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$22,797,352        | \$182,189,744      | 12.5%                      | 1.50                          |

## Enhancements to Education

Fargo Public Schools provides enhancements to the education of our students including:

Student Transportation

Educational Field Trips for Elementary Students:

- Red River Zoo
- MSUM Planetarium/Science Center
- Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre
- Ukrainian Kaleidoscope
- Fargo Theatre and Downtown Fargo
- Bonanzaville
- Living Agriculture
- Young People's Court
- My Day in Court
- Buffalo River Science Center
- MSUM Theatre

In-School Experiences for Elementary Students:

- Fire Safety
- Bus Safety
- Bicycle Safety
- Junior Achievement
- Reading Corps
- Operation Big Band-Aid
- Creative Arts Programming & Plains Art
- Red Flag Green Flag
- ND and Fargo History Presentations
- Learning Bank

Secondary Music Trip (every other year)

Secondary Career Fair, Expo, and Field Trips

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

Middle School Music Sectionals

Secondary 8 Period Day

Trollwood Performing Arts School

Enhancements for Employee Well-Being:

- Flu Shot Clinics
- Health Club Reimbursement



## Adult Education

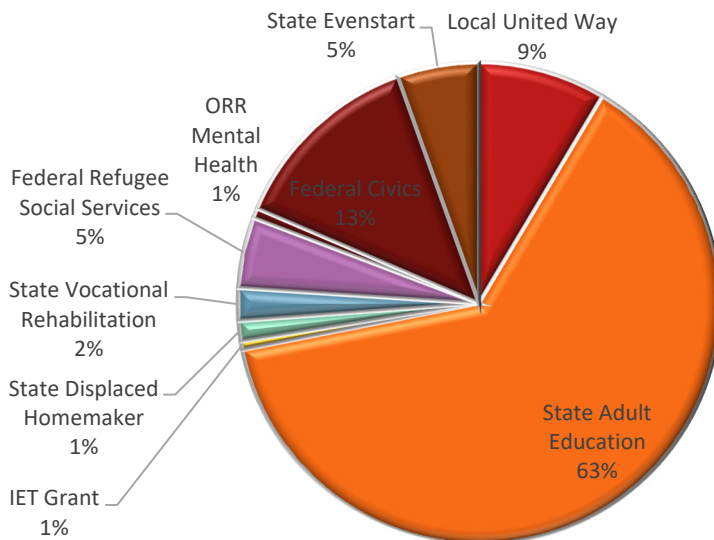
The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction receives federal funds under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA) and state funds to support the operations and free programs of the Adult Learning Centers who serve individuals who:

- are at least 16 years of age;
- are not enrolled in high school;
- do not have a high school diploma;
- are mandated by State Law;
- may lack sufficient mastery of basic educational skills; and/or
- cannot speak, read, or write the English language

There are eight regional adult learning centers and satellites in ND to serve the public. Programming offered through the Fargo Adult Learning Center includes:

- General Education Degree
- English Learners
- College and Career Readiness including Basic Job Skills, Computer Literacy and Driver's Literacy
- Citizenship
- Displaced Homemaker
- Certified Nursing Program
- Literacy
- Even Start Family Literacy

The Adult Learning Center employed twenty-one staff during the 2023 school year, serving on average 950 adult students. Most funding for the program is derived from state sources:



## Trollwood Performing Arts School

Trollwood Performing Arts School, located at Bluestem Center for the Arts in Moorhead, MN, is a unique arts program of Fargo Public Schools committed to providing high quality arts education, exceptional community entertainment, and serves as a community events and exposition center.

Since 1978, thousands of young people have spent their summers learning, growing, and making friends at Trollwood. Trollwood offers nine annual arts education, youth leadership and performance programs.

Trollwood Performing Arts School's history of service to youth through arts education has been acknowledged with several prestigious awards:

- United Nation's Peace Messenger Award, 1991
- President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Coming Up Taller Award, 2002. Trollwood was one of only eleven organizations across the nation to be chosen for their outstanding youth arts programs
- Governor's Award for the Arts, 2003, awarded by North Dakota Governor John Hoeven in honor of Trollwood's long-standing commitment to excellence in arts education and community entertainment
- Lake Agassiz Arts Council's Arts Education Advocate Award, 2007
- Certificate of Excellence for Superior Performance and Leadership by Impact Foundation through Dakota Medical Foundation, 2008
- Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce Chamber Choice Small Non-Profit of the Year Finalist, 2008
- Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau "Countryopolitan Award" for creating the new 4-season campus to promote tourism in the Fargo-Moorhead area, 2009
- Metro Area Mayors' Committee for People with Disabilities "Universal Access Award" for meeting the minimum requirements set by the ADA and made additional architectural designs that have increased the accessibility for people with disabilities, 2009
- North Dakota Parent-Teacher Association Friend of the Child Award, 2011
- American Advertising Federation-North Dakota
- "Best of the Valley" and "Best Live Entertainment Venue from 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022
- Fargo Forum's Best Annual Non-Sporting Event 2019
- "Best Large Music Venue" 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 from High Plains Reader
- Award of Excellence from NSPRA Publications & Digital Media Awards, 2021

## Bluestem Center for the Arts

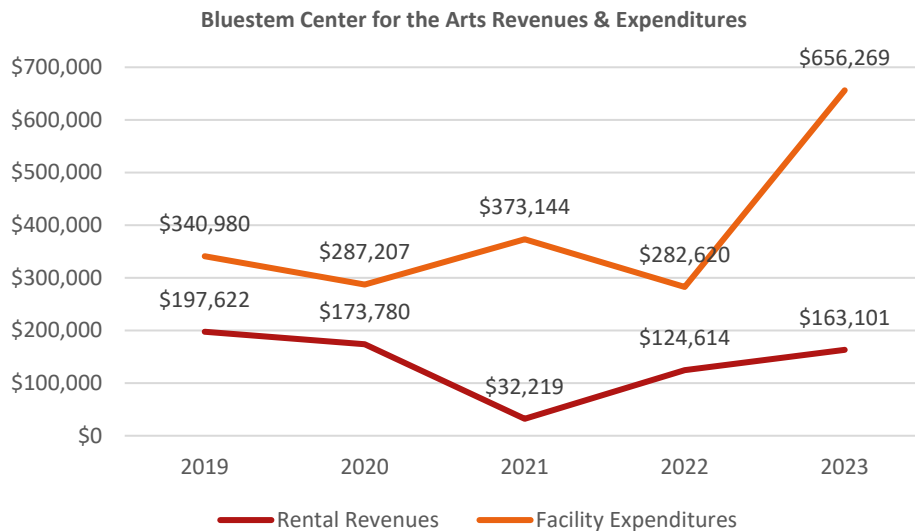
Fargo Public Schools, through Trollwood Performing Arts School, serves as the managing arm for Bluestem Center for the Arts, a world-class facility headquartered in Moorhead, MN. Nestled along the Red River of the North, Bluestem Amphitheater features an outdoor stage with seating for 2,500. The venue also offers a unique indoor educational center, which serves as a performance venue available for rent. The Center’s beautiful grounds are made up of picturesque river views, grassy meadows, woods, and wildlife.

The venue was constructed through a collaboration between Fargo Public Schools and the City of Moorhead. The District leases the facility from the City of Moorhead.

Bluestem Center for the Arts hosts programs that inspire a love for the arts in community members of all ages. The facility is used for school arts curriculum and activities, public performances, exhibitions, community festivals, corporate retreats, conferences, and other private rental opportunities. Since opening, thousands of patrons have enjoyed a broad range of programming including theatre, arts educational opportunities, concerts, dance, music, and special events.

With the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, rental venues were closed or extremely limited to the public during the summer months, resulting in the facility realizing a significant loss in revenue.

District management of the facility began in 2012. The following information summarizes facility activity for the previous five years:



## Section II: Special Education

This section assesses district funding and spending on special education programs and services for the five largest districts in the state.

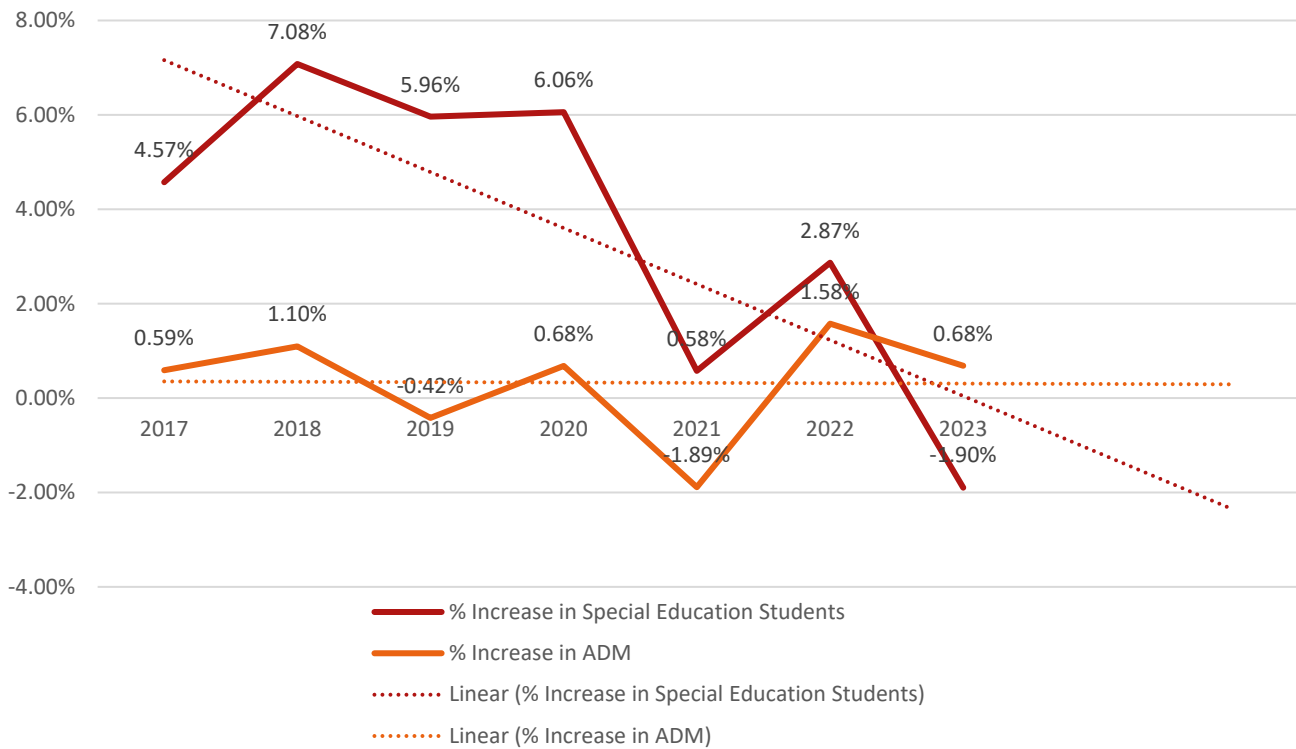
### Special Education Child Count

School districts are required to submit to NDDPI their unduplicated count of children receiving special services each December. The table below displays the child count for the comparison districts and the percentage of special education students in each district.

|                    | Special Services Child Count | ADM       | %      |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | 1,774                        | 14,264.70 | 12.44% |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | 1,760                        | 11,736.80 | 15.00% |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | 1,266                        | 7,590.53  | 16.68% |
| <b>Minot</b>       | 1,287                        | 7,820.18  | 16.46% |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | 1,448                        | 12,896.72 | 11.23% |

Fargo Public Schools has historically realized an increase in students requiring special services at a higher rate than the growth in ADM. Currently, this trend is lessening as ADM is remaining consistent and the number of special education students in comparison is decreasing.

**Comparison of Special Education Students to ADM**



## Special Education Revenues

Since its initial enactment, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has included a commitment to pay 40% of the excess costs of educating students with disabilities. According to the National Education Association, the federal share is less than 14%. This lack of funding creates a shortfall that places a burden on state and local education agencies to fill in the remaining funding gap.

Comparison district federal special education revenue and funding per student are depicted in the following tables:

|                    | Total Federal Revenue | Federal Special Education Revenue | % Federal Special Education Revenue |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$27,338,945          | \$4,835,547                       | 17.69%                              |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$29,588,638          | \$3,411,632                       | 11.53%                              |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$19,506,144          | \$2,435,856                       | 12.49%                              |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$26,392,091          | \$3,800,432                       | 14.40%                              |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$19,823,587          | \$4,425,676                       | 22.33%                              |

|                    | Federal IDEA Revenue | Federal IDEA Funding per Student |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$4,006,249          | \$2,258                          |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$3,405,632          | \$1,935                          |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$2,435,856          | \$1,924                          |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$3,032,936          | \$2,357                          |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$2,585,583          | \$1,786                          |

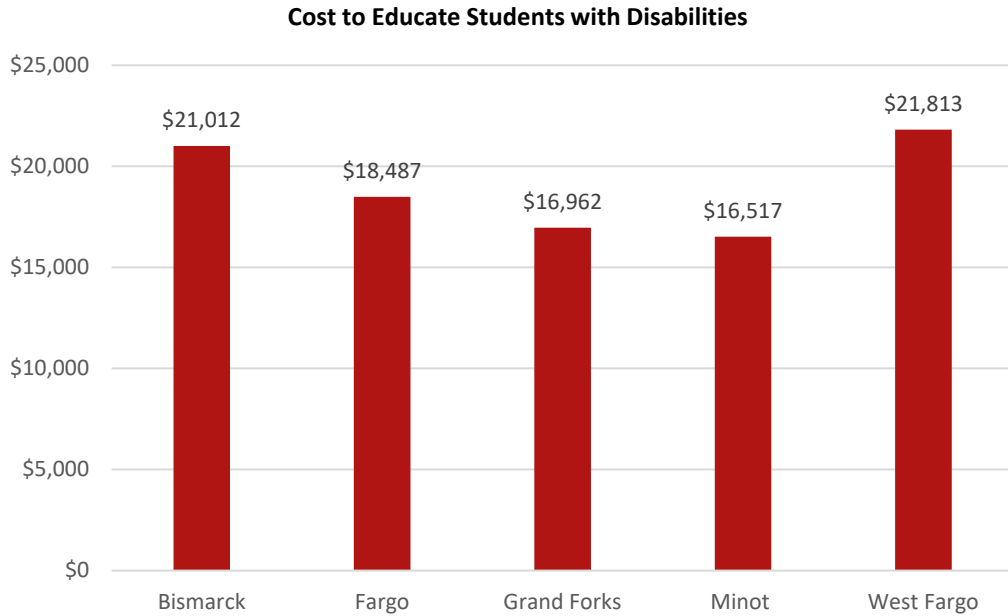
North Dakota school districts incur the full cost of educating students with disabilities based upon an approved contract and are subsequently reimbursed for amounts more than the cost cap, which is four times the state average cost for regular education. The fiscal 2023 cost caps were as follows based on a 175-day calendar year:

|                                | State Average Cost | 2022-2023 Cost Cap |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Elementary (Grades 1-8)</b> | \$13,795           | \$55,184           |
| <b>Secondary (Grades 9-12)</b> | \$14,645           | \$58,659           |

## Special Education Expenditures

### Cost to Educate

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, public schools spend \$17,000 per pupil, inclusive of capital outlays and interest on school debt. The ND average spending per pupil is \$18,500. The following chart depicts the average spending per special education student of the comparison districts.



### Expenditures by Category Type

The following information displays the breakdown of special education costs by expenditure type for the comparison districts. The information does not include transportation or tuition paid to other districts to educate students with disabilities.

|                                | Bismarck     | %   | Fargo        | %   | Grand Forks  | %   | Minot        | %   | West Fargo   | %   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| <b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b> | \$34,498,987 | 97% | \$29,389,171 | 82% | \$19,096,598 | 54% | \$20,578,250 | 58% | \$27,653,367 | 78% |
| <b>Purchased Services</b>      | \$544,248    | 2%  | \$1,678,418  | 5%  | \$1,370,503  | 4%  | \$244,065    | 1%  | \$2,225,831  | 6%  |
| <b>Supplies &amp; Other</b>    | \$618,333    | 2%  | \$462,380    | 1%  | \$390,727    | 1%  | \$147,614    | 0%  | \$451,333    | 1%  |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>      | \$35,661,567 |     | \$31,529,968 |     | \$20,857,828 |     | \$20,969,929 |     | \$30,330,530 |     |

## Expenditures by Service Area

| Service Area                            | Bismarck            | Fargo               | Grand Forks         | Minot               | West Fargo          |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Preschool Instruction                   | \$2,352,473         | \$2,439,603         | \$653,900           | \$1,865,119         | \$1,682,383         |
| Intellectual Disability Instruction     | 12,723,169          | 2,884,933           | -                   | 4,565,713           | 3,318,048           |
| Heard of Hearing Instruction            | 398,100             | 821,545             | 88,590              | 295,105             | 345,349             |
| Deaf Instruction                        | 86,852              | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Visually Handicapped Instruction        | 141,331             | 233,879             | 52,478              | 295,090             | 96,543              |
| Speech Impaired Instruction             | 3,615,194           | 2,727,792           | 2,205,913           | 3,276,199           | 3,485,287           |
| Physically Impaired Instruction         | -                   | -                   | -                   | 63,880              | -                   |
| Other Health Impaired Instruction       | -                   | 225,736             | -                   | 10,738              | 1,197,005           |
| Autism Instruction                      | 90,970              | 2,061,268           | -                   | 315,744             | 3,144,062           |
| Emotionally Disturbed Instruction       | 2,808,267           | 5,390,931           | -                   | 3,995,663           | 2,494,813           |
| Learning Disabled Instruction           | 5,158,299           | 6,655,194           | -                   | 3,213,727           | 7,163,918           |
| Multiple Handicapped Instruction        | -                   | 1,045,733           | 14,985,872          | 117,499             | -                   |
| Gifted & Talented Instruction           | 469,112             | 1,250,657           | 10,496              | 468,016             | 587,900             |
| Social Work Services                    | 2,327,578           | 51,548              | -                   | 545,108             | 1,149,511           |
| Counseling Services                     | -                   | 280,109             | 270,788             | -                   | -                   |
| Adaptive Physical Education             | -                   | 143,850             | 106,534             | 10,737              | 45,091              |
| Psychological Services/Testing          | 1,494,439           | 617,658             | 636,034             | 436,443             | 1,076,127           |
| Audiology Services                      | -                   | 38,400              | 116,006             | -                   | -                   |
| Speech Services                         | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Medical Services/Diagnosis & Evaluation | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | 270,648             |
| Occupational Therapy Services           | 1,156,936           | 853,581             | 234,090             | 390,000             | 625,771             |
| Physical Therapy Services               | 174,381             | 439,341             | 81,633              | 105,342             | 360,088             |
| Other Student Support Services          | 1,334,400           | 1,479,908           | 326,105             | 109,123             | 1,181,965           |
| Support Services Instructional Staff    | 271,487             | 962,432             | 126,006             | 56,000              | 1,247,956           |
| Administrative Services                 | 1,012,398           | 696,329             | 963,383             | 834,684             | 763,956             |
| Business Services                       | 10,878              | 2,021               | -                   | -                   | 56,950              |
| Other Support Services                  | 35,303              | 227,519             | -                   | -                   | 37,157              |
| Tuition                                 | 1,613,917           | 1,006,331           | 616,378             | 287,072             | 1,254,438           |
| Boarding                                | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Transportation                          | 356,065             | 3,285,004           | 886,378             | 867,292             | 1,899,953           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$37,631,549</b> | <b>\$35,821,303</b> | <b>\$22,360,583</b> | <b>\$22,124,293</b> | <b>\$33,484,922</b> |

## Special Education Funding Shortfall

As mentioned previously, a funding shortfall exists in special education. The table below depicts the local cost and local cost percentage school districts must fund to cover the costs of educating students with special needs.

|                    | Special Education Revenues | Special Education Expenditures | Local Special Education Expenditures | Local % |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Bismarck</b>    | \$26,279,061               | \$37,631,549                   | \$11,352,488                         | 30.2%   |
| <b>Fargo</b>       | \$25,187,600               | \$35,821,303                   | \$10,633,703                         | 29.7%   |
| <b>Grand Forks</b> | \$17,634,267               | \$22,360,583                   | \$4,726,316                          | 21.1%   |
| <b>Minot</b>       | \$18,836,862               | \$22,124,293                   | \$3,287,431                          | 14.9%   |
| <b>West Fargo</b>  | \$21,659,184               | \$33,484,922                   | \$11,825,737                         | 35.3%   |

## Section III: English Learners

### Refugee Resettlement in North Dakota

Refugees are people who the government has determined have a well-founded fear of persecution, have gone through an extensive vetting process, and who have typically waited many years before arriving in the United States. Among the top countries of origin for refugees over the past decade are Myanmar (Burma), Iraq, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Iran, Syria, Cuba, and Ukraine. In the U.S., the refugee resettlement program is a public-private partnership of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and nine national resettlement agencies.

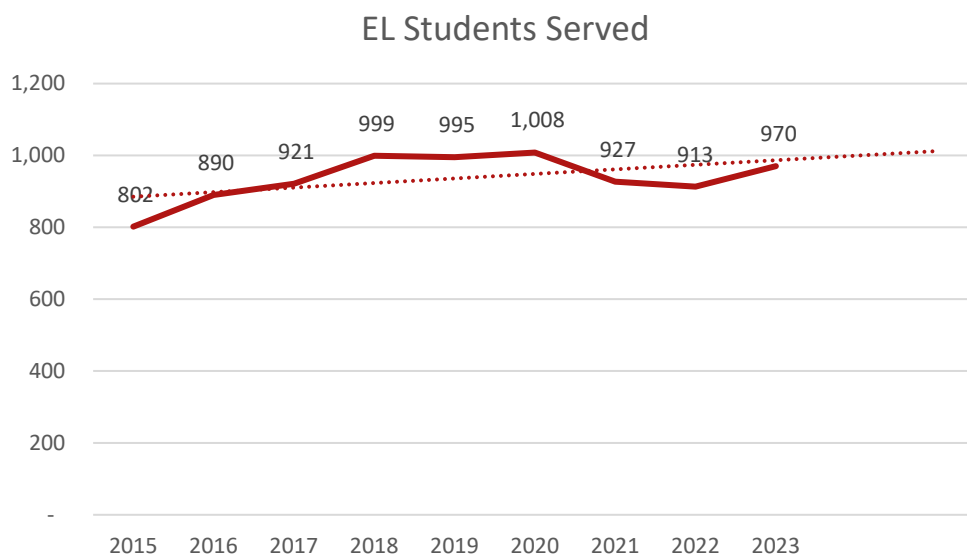
Over the past years, most refugees in North Dakota were settled in Fargo. According to the Immigration Research Initiative, North Dakota is the second highest state for refugee arrivals per capita (Nebraska is first).

### Program and Students

The purpose of the English Learner (EL) Program is to identify and provide specialized instruction, for students who qualify, through highly qualified teachers targeted to build students' English proficiency (Listening + Speaking + Reading + Writing), academic content knowledge, acculturation skills and choice (college-career-life) readiness.

Fargo Public Schools served 970 students during the 2023 school year, an increase of 6.2% over the previous year. Students are screened through the District's Home Language Survey and evaluated through a World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium MODEL (Measure of Developing English Language) screener test to see if they meet the criterion to receive EL support services. Daily minutes of EL services vary depending upon student need.

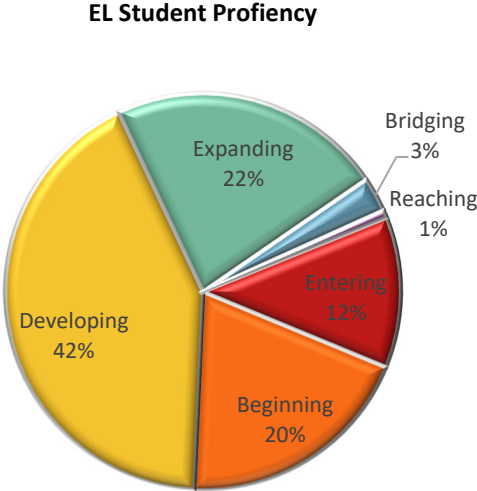
Fargo Public School students receiving EL services have continued to increase with the forecasted trend showing additional progression.





Annually, all EL students take a standardized WIDA Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) test to determine their level English Language proficiency. There are five proficiency levels with the sixth reaching attainment of proficiency. Students are exited from the EL program when they score a 5.0 on the ACCESS test. Exited students continue to be progress monitored for two years to ensure they are being successful in the mainstream classes.

The 2023 breakdown of the District’s student proficiency is displayed below:



**Revenues**

EL programming is funded through a variety of grants with most support through general fund dollars (state and local).

**Title III**

Title III funding is to be utilized for school districts that have qualified Limited English Proficient (LEP) or EL students enrolled in local schools. Districts must have enough qualified students for a minimum grant award of \$10,000 to be eligible to receive any Title III funds.

|                                | Bismarck | Fargo    | Grand Forks | Minot    | West Fargo |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|
| <b>2023 Title III Revenues</b> | \$48,583 | \$48,531 | \$34,623    | \$14,422 | \$104,330  |

**STEEP**

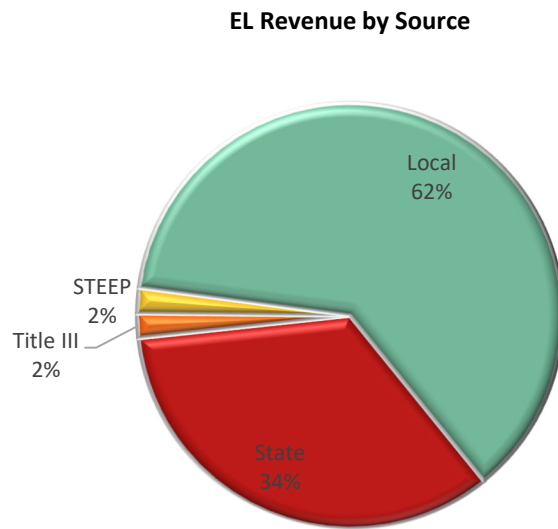
STEEP funds, also known as the “refugee school impact grant,” are used to better meet the needs of refugee children as they adjust to life in the U.S. STEEP funds support success in school by addressing the needs of newly arrived refugee children through entry-level programs and extracurricular services that increase the likelihood of: (1) high attendance and school engagement; (2) full classroom performance; (3) access to the core curriculum through increased English language proficiency; and ultimately, (4) academic success. Only refugee students who have arrived in the U.S. within the last 36 months, including any secondary migration, are eligible for STEEP programming.

### State EL Weighting Factor

State aid contains additional ADM weighting factors for EL students in the following proficiency levels, providing approximately \$892K in EL specific funding to the District.

| English Learner Proficiency Level | Weighting Factor |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Level 1                           | .40              |
| Level 2                           | .28              |
| Level 3                           | .07              |

Fargo Public School’s EL revenue by source for 2023 is as follows:



### Expenditures

97% of Fargo Public Schools EL expenditures are spent on salary and benefits for highly qualified teaching staff. The remaining expenditures are related to purchased services (interpreters), student transportation and supplies.

Total EL expenditures have remained consistent. Due to the discontinuance of certain grant funds, increased local support may be required to provide the same level of support for students in future years.

The table below displays the District’s total expenditures related to EL services and the cost per student served for the past five years:

|                              | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total EL Expenditures</b> | \$2,704,058 | \$2,617,227 | \$2,505,460 | \$2,500,537 | \$2,613,543 |
| <b>EL Students</b>           | 995         | 1,008       | 927         | 913         | 970         |
| <b>Cost per Student</b>      | \$2,718     | \$2,596     | \$2,703     | \$2,739     | \$2,694     |

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