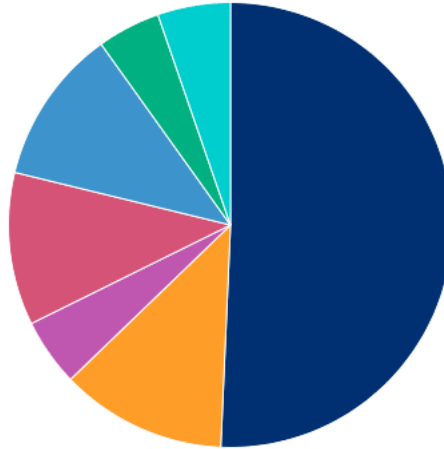


J.O. Combs Unified School District

[District demographic information](#) ▾

District's spending by operational area



Classroom spending, 67.7%
Instruction, 50.7%
Student support, 12.1%
Instruction support, 4.9%

Nonclassroom spending, 32.3%
Administration, 11.1%
Plant operations, 11.3%
Food service, 4.6%
Transportation, 5.3%

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 J.O. Combs Unified 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 [operational peer groups](#)⁹ in order to help create meaningful comparisons across districts. J.O. Combs Unified School District's peer group had an average instructional spending percentage of 53.4%. This number can help provide context for J.O. Combs Unified School District's own instructional spending percentage.

Instructional spending percentage highlights (2001-2022)

We have monitored instructional spending since fiscal year 2001. Below are highlights from J.O. Combs Unified 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. 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.

Prior fiscal year
FY 2021

50.0%

Highest
FY 2006

59.8%

Current fiscal year
FY 2022

50.7%

Lowest
FY 2017

49.2%

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. For example, if a district has higher spending in plant operations, it will have fewer dollars to spend on instruction.

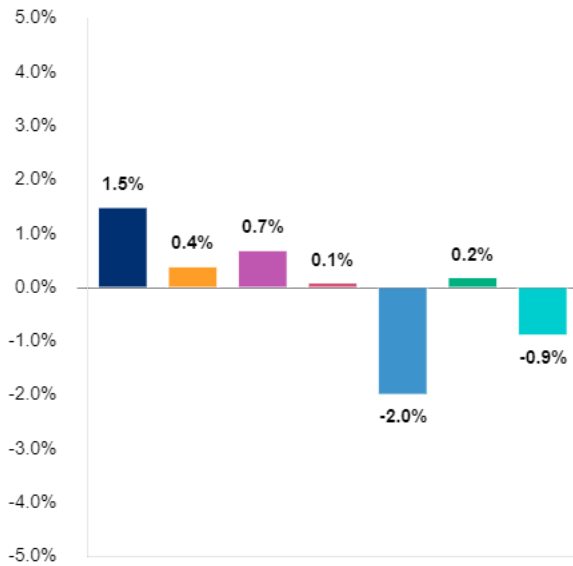
The bar chart below, "Percentage point change in spending by area," illustrates how J.O. Combs Unified School District's spending by area has changed from the prior fiscal year and 5 fiscal years ago.

To put the spending percentages in context, it also can be helpful to review a district's per student 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.

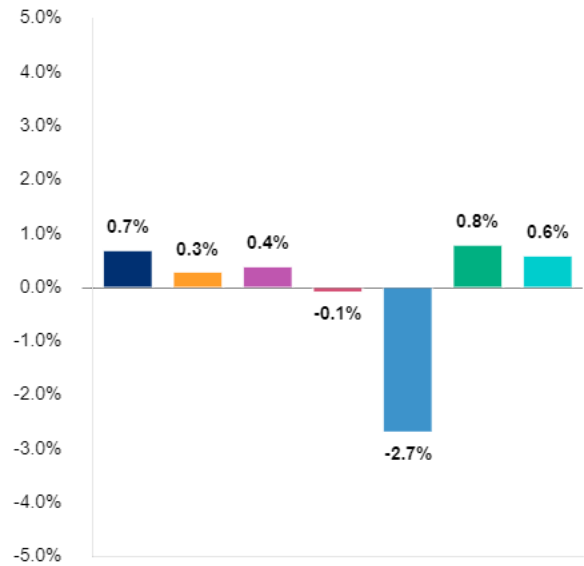
Percentage point change in spending by area

Percentage point change in spending by area

Compare State-wide FY 2022 spending to:
District's FY 2017 spending (5-year trend)



Compare District's FY 2022 spending to:
District's FY 2021 spending (1-year trend)



**Change in classroom spending,
2.6%**

Instruction, 1.5%
Student support, 0.4%
Instruction support, 0.7%

**Change in nonclassroom spending,
-2.6%**

Administration, 0.1%
Plant operations, -2.0%
Food service, 0.2%
Transportation, -0.9%

**Change in classroom spending,
1.4%**

Instruction, 0.7%
Student support, 0.3%
Instruction support, 0.4%

**Change in nonclassroom spending,
-1.4%**

Administration, -0.1%
Plant operations, -2.7%
Food service, 0.8%
Transportation, 0.6%

Per student spending by area

Area	District FY 2021	District FY 2022	1-year change
Classroom spending			
Instruction	\$4,502	\$4,564	+\$62
Student support	\$1,060	\$1,089	+\$29
Instruction support	\$406	\$438	+\$32
Nonclassroom spending			
Administration	\$1,009	\$1,001	-\$8
Plant operations	\$1,261	\$1,015	-\$246
Food service	\$337	\$418	+\$81
Transportation	\$425	\$479	+\$54
Total operational	\$9,000	\$9,004	+\$4
Land and buildings	\$1,177	\$179	-\$998
Equipment	\$870	\$779	-\$91
Interest	\$520	\$444	-\$76
Other	\$222	\$255	+\$33
Total nonoperational	\$2,789	\$1,657	-\$1,132
Total per pupil spending	\$11,789	\$10,661	-\$1,128

Operational efficiency measures

Performance measures, such as those shown below, can be used in addition to the 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 available or applicable). High or very high spending when compared to peer averages may signify an opportunity for improved efficiency in that area. A district's data may not be available or applicable if they did not operate a program in that operational area. For example, not all districts operate food service or transportation programs.

For more information on how we calculate these measures, see the "Operational efficiency measure calculations" section on the [Glossary page](#).

Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average ¹	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Administration	Spending per student	\$1,088	\$1,095	\$1,001	Low
	Students per administrative position	63	64	67	N/A
Plant operations	Spending per square foot	\$7.21	\$6.65	\$6.38	Comparable
	Square footage per student	167 ft ²	168 ft ²	159 ft ²	N/A
Food service	Spending per meal	\$3.25	\$3.13	\$2.86	Low
	Meals per student	158	134	146	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. For more information on how we create transportation peer groups see the "District peer groups" section on the [Glossary page](#).

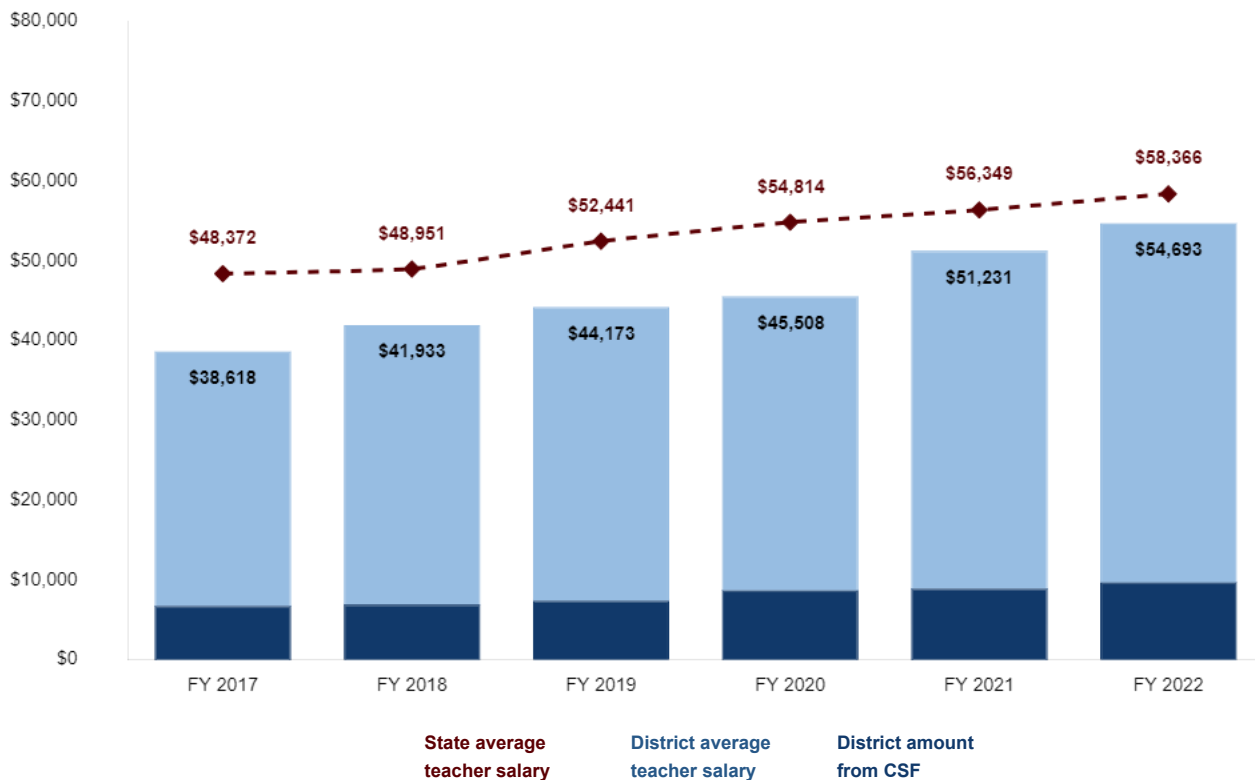
Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average ¹	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Transportation	Spending per mile	\$5.53	\$5.60	\$5.42	Comparable
	Spending per rider	\$1,945	\$1,678	\$1,303	Very Low

Why monitor average teacher salary?

Teacher salaries are one of a school district's most significant costs and have been a topic of high interest in recent years in Arizona. In FYs 2018 through 2021, additional State monies were provided to districts with the intention of increasing teacher salary 20 percent from the FY 2017 base year. The bar chart below shows how J.O. Combs Unified School District's average teacher salary changed during this time and immediately after the annual State increases ended, as well as how it compared to the State average. Further, we show the portion of the District's average teacher salary that was from Classroom Site Fund (CSF) monies.

We have also included a table that displays other student- and teacher-related measures that may provide additional context regarding changes to J.O. Combs Unified School District's average teacher salary. For instance, changes in a district's [teacher population¹](#) can impact the district's average teacher salary.

Average teacher salary and other measures



Measure	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Students per teacher ¹	20.9	20.7	19.1	19.7	19.3	20.2
Average years of teacher experience	7.6	8.5	10.5	10.8	11.3	11.2
Percentage of teachers in first 3 years	38%	35%	22%	18%	16%	19%

Student achievement

In FYs 2020 and 2021 State assessment testing was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with school districts being exempted from conducting State assessments in FY 2020 and not all eligible students participating in FY 2021. With nearly all districts returning to in-person learning in FY 2022, we are presenting the percentage of students who passed State assessments for Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science assessments. For FY 2022, we also present an achievement peer group average and the State average for comparison. For more information on how we create achievement peer groups see the "District peer groups" section on the [Glossary page](#).

Percentage of students who passed State assessments

