

# the condition of education 2008



## INDICATOR 37

# Public Elementary and Secondary Expenditures by District Poverty

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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## Finance

## Public Elementary and Secondary Expenditures by District Poverty

*Current expenditures per student in 2004–05 were highest in high-poverty school districts and next highest in low-poverty school districts.*

Current expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools vary by the level of poverty in a district. For example, in 2004–05, current expenditures per student, which include instructional, administrative, and operation and maintenance expenditures, were highest in high-poverty districts (\$9,892), next highest in low-poverty districts (\$9,263), and lowest in middle-poverty districts (\$8,536) (see supplemental table 37-1). Districts were ranked by the percentage of school-age children (5- to 17-year-olds) in poverty and then divided into five groups with approximately equal public school enrollments. The low-poverty district category consists of those districts with the lowest percentages of school-age children in poverty. Conversely, the high-poverty district category consists of those with the highest percentages of school-age children in poverty. All expenditures in this indicator have been adjusted to account for inflation and geographic cost of living differences.<sup>1</sup>

Between 1997–98 and 2004–05, current expenditures per student increased by 20 percent in constant dollars, from \$7,602 to \$9,094. Cur-

rent expenditures per student increased the most for the high-poverty districts (26 percent), and the least for the middle-poverty districts (16 percent). Expenditures in the other three categories increased between 18 and 20 percent.

In 2004–05, current expenditures per pupil also differed by the type of community in which the school district was located. When adjusted for geographic cost differences, current expenditures per student were highest in districts located in towns (\$9,430) and rural areas (\$9,426) and lowest in the suburbs (\$8,862) (see supplemental table 37-2). In every district poverty category, rural areas had either the highest or second highest current expenditures per pupil.

There were differences in the types of communities in which low- and high-poverty school districts were located. For example, among students in low-poverty districts, 69 percent were enrolled in the suburbs, while 10 percent were enrolled in cities (see supplemental table 37-3). In contrast, 69 percent of the students in high-poverty districts were enrolled in cities, while the suburbs enrolled 7 percent.

<sup>1</sup>The NCES Comparable Wage Index (CWI) was used to adjust for geographic cost differences. As the CWI measures geographic differences in wages, it is more appropriate to use the CWI for expenditure categories with larger percentages of salaries, such as current expenditures and instruction expenditures, than for other expenditures with smaller percentages of salaries such as total expenditures. All expenditures in this indicator are in constant 2006–07 dollars. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to adjust expenditures into constant dollars. See *supplemental note 11* for information on the CWI, the CPI, and classifications of expenditures.

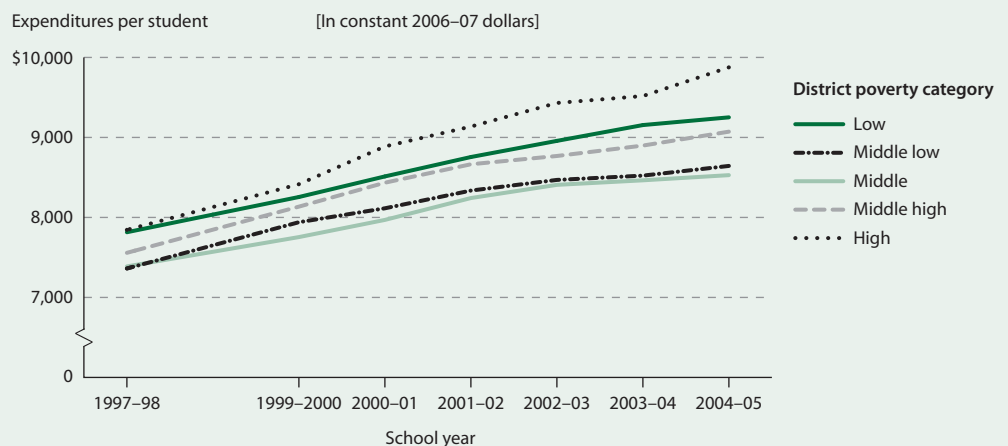
NOTE: See *supplemental note 1* for further information on poverty and community types. Regular districts include elementary/secondary combined districts and separate elementary or secondary districts. They exclude Department of Defense districts and Bureau of Indian Education districts.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates," 1997–98 and 1999–2000 to 2004–05; and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "School District Finance Survey (Form F-33)," 1997–98 and 1999–2000 to 2004–05, and NCES Comparable Wage Index Files, "2005 School District CWI."



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 3, 11  
Supplemental Tables 37-1,  
37-2, 37-3  
NCES 2001-323  
Orlofsky 2002

**CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT: Public school district geographic cost-adjusted expenditures per student, by district poverty category: Various school years, 1997–98 to 2004–05**



## Public Elementary and Secondary Expenditures by District Poverty

**Table 37-1. Current expenditures per student at fall enrollment in public school districts, by district poverty category: Various years, 1997–98 to 2004–05**

District poverty category <sup>1</sup>	Current expenditures per student							Percent change from 1997–98 to 2004–05
	1997–98	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	
<b>Unadjusted dollars</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,023</b>	<b>\$6,727</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$7,541</b>	<b>\$7,870</b>	<b>\$8,135</b>	<b>\$8,539</b>	<b>42.0</b>
Low	6,552	7,207	7,713	8,126	8,477	8,833	9,241	41.0
Middle low	5,853	6,604	7,032	7,345	7,640	7,862	8,191	40.0
Middle	5,620	6,194	6,601	6,952	7,214	7,453	7,726	37.0
Middle high	5,608	6,440	6,876	7,212	7,420	7,709	8,058	44.0
High	6,482	7,181	7,782	8,075	8,606	8,858	9,482	46.0
<b>In constant 2006–07 dollars, not adjusted for geographic cost differences<sup>2</sup></b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,602</b>	<b>\$8,111</b>	<b>\$8,395</b>	<b>\$8,639</b>	<b>\$8,822</b>	<b>\$8,924</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>19.6</b>
Low	8,269	8,690	8,993	9,310	9,503	9,690	9,841	19.0
Middle low	7,388	7,963	8,199	8,414	8,564	8,625	8,723	18.1
Middle	7,094	7,469	7,696	7,965	8,087	8,176	8,228	16.0
Middle high	7,077	7,766	8,017	8,262	8,318	8,456	8,581	21.2
High	8,181	8,659	9,073	9,251	9,647	9,718	10,098	23.4
<b>In constant 2006–07 dollars and adjusted for geographic cost differences<sup>2,3</sup></b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,602</b>	<b>\$8,111</b>	<b>\$8,395</b>	<b>\$8,639</b>	<b>\$8,822</b>	<b>\$8,924</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>19.6</b>
Low	7,818	8,261	8,520	8,764	8,967	9,166	9,263	18.5
Middle low	7,362	7,944	8,119	8,342	8,476	8,530	8,652	17.5
Middle	7,388	7,757	7,973	8,248	8,414	8,471	8,536	15.5
Middle high	7,559	8,140	8,441	8,673	8,777	8,908	9,083	20.2
High	7,848	8,422	8,897	9,147	9,444	9,531	9,892	26.0

<sup>1</sup>District poverty was determined by ranking school districts by the percentage of related children ages 5–17 from families with an income below the poverty threshold to all district children ages 5–17, and then dividing these districts into five categories with equal proportions of the total enrollment. The low-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the lowest percentages of poor school-age children. Conversely, the high-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the highest percentages of poor school-age children. See *supplemental note 1* for further information on poverty.

<sup>2</sup>Current expenditures have been adjusted for the effects of inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and are in constant 2006–07 dollars. See *supplemental note 11* for information about the CPI.

<sup>3</sup>The NCES Comparable Wage Index (CWI) was used to adjust for geographic cost of living differences. For more details on the CWI, see *supplemental note 11*.

NOTE: Data are for regular districts, elementary/secondary combined districts, and separate elementary or secondary districts. They exclude Department of Defense districts and Bureau of Indian Education districts. See *supplemental note 1* for further information about the accounting terms used in this indicator.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates," 1997–98 and 1999–2000 to 2004–05; and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "School District Finance Survey (Form F-33)," 1997–98 and 1999–2000 to 2004–05, and NCES Comparable Wage Index Files, "2005 School District CWI."

## Public Elementary and Secondary Expenditures by District Poverty

**Table 37-2. Current expenditures per student at fall enrollment in public school districts, by community type and district poverty category: 2004–05**

District poverty category <sup>1</sup>	Total	City	Suburban	Town	Rural
<b>In constant 2006–07 dollars, not adjusted for geographic cost differences<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>\$9,416</b>	<b>\$9,321</b>	<b>\$8,333</b>	<b>\$8,589</b>
Low	9,841	8,591	10,227	8,792	9,315
Middle low	8,723	8,455	8,914	8,478	8,626
Middle	8,228	8,259	8,096	8,274	8,380
Middle high	8,581	8,586	9,136	8,212	8,260
High	10,098	10,630	10,508	8,215	8,562
<b>In constant 2006–07 dollars and adjusted for geographic cost differences<sup>2,3</sup></b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>\$9,092</b>	<b>\$8,862</b>	<b>\$9,430</b>	<b>\$9,426</b>
Low	9,263	7,932	9,455	9,060	9,335
Middle low	8,652	8,153	8,490	9,256	9,239
Middle	8,536	8,333	7,992	9,442	9,234
Middle high	9,083	8,765	8,868	9,578	9,541
High	9,892	9,901	9,965	9,596	10,044

<sup>1</sup>District poverty was determined by ranking school districts by the percentage of related children ages 5–17 from families with an income below the poverty threshold to all district children ages 5–17, and then dividing these districts into five categories with equal proportions of the total enrollment. The low-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the lowest percentages of poor school-age children. Conversely, the high-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the highest percentages of poor school-age children. See *supplemental note 1* for further information on poverty.

<sup>2</sup>Current expenditures have been adjusted for the effects of inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and are in constant 2006–07 dollars. See *supplemental note 11* for information about the CPI.

<sup>3</sup>The NCES Comparable Wage Index (CWI) was used to adjust for geographic cost of living differences. For more details on the CWI, see *supplemental note 11*.

NOTE: Data are for regular districts, elementary/secondary combined districts, and separate elementary or secondary districts. They exclude Department of Defense districts and Bureau of Indian Education districts. See *supplemental note 1* for information about community types.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates," 2004–05; and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency Universe Survey," 2003–04, "School District Finance Survey (Form F-33)," 2004–05, and NCES Comparable Wage Index Files, "2005 School District CWI."

**Table 37-3. Percentage distribution of fall enrollment in public school districts, by community type and district poverty category: 2004–05**

District poverty category <sup>1</sup>	Total	City	Suburban	Town	Rural
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>18.2</b>
Low	100.0	10.0	68.8	5.6	15.7
Middle low	100.0	17.3	50.8	13.1	18.9
Middle	100.0	25.9	37.2	14.5	22.4
Middle high	100.0	35.2	24.5	18.8	21.5
High	100.0	69.3	7.2	11.2	12.4

<sup>1</sup>District poverty was determined by ranking school districts by the percentage of related children ages 5–17 from families with an income below the poverty threshold to all district children ages 5–17, and then dividing these districts into five categories with equal proportions of the total enrollment. The low-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the lowest percentages of poor school-age children. Conversely, the high-poverty district category consists of the 20 percent of students in districts with the highest percentages of poor school-age children. See *supplemental note 1* for further information on poverty.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Data are for regular districts, elementary/secondary combined districts, and separate elementary or secondary districts. They exclude Department of Defense districts and Bureau of Indian Education districts. See *supplemental note 1* for information about community types.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates," 2004–05; and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency Universe Survey," 2003–04 and "School District Finance Survey (Form F-33)," 2004–05.