

FEDERAL EDUCATION BUDGET PROJECT

Website Overview

Michael Dannenberg
Director, Education Policy Program
New America Foundation

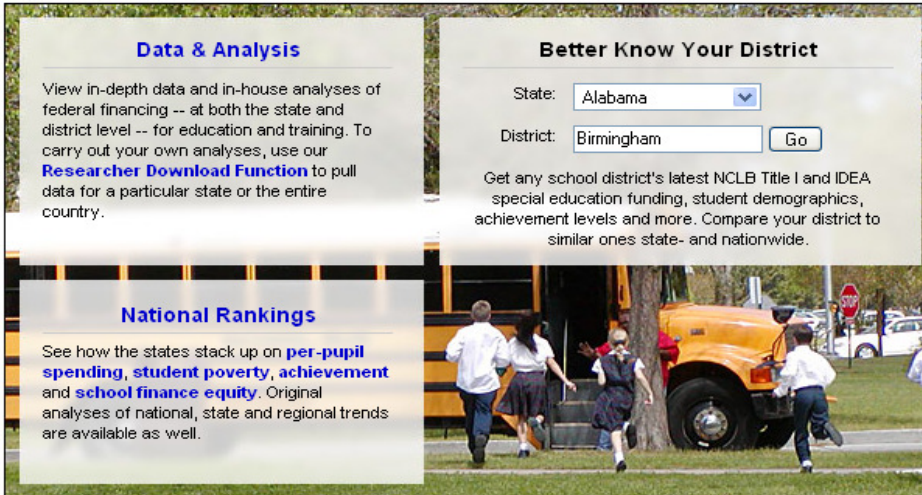
[Ed Budget Project.Org](http://EdBudgetProject.Org)

Main Page – District Search

EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAM

Federal Education Budget Project

A Definitive Resource on Federal Education Financing



Data & Analysis

View in-depth data and in-house analyses of federal financing -- at both the state and district level -- for education and training. To carry out your own analyses, use our [Researcher Download Function](#) to pull data for a particular state or the entire country.

Better Know Your District

State:

District:

Get any school district's latest NCLB Title I and IDEA special education funding, student demographics, achievement levels and more. Compare your district to similar ones state- and nationwide.

National Rankings

See how the states stack up on **per-pupil spending**, **student poverty**, **achievement** and **school finance equity**. Original analyses of national, state and regional trends are available as well.

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Headline	Date
New Resource for Journalists: EdBudgetProject.Org	June 10, 2008
The Budget Resolution and Education Funding: A Primer	March 11, 2008
Jason Delisle in CongressDaily PM 'Senate Budget Would Boost Advance Approps	March 10, 2008

ED MONEY WATCH BLOG

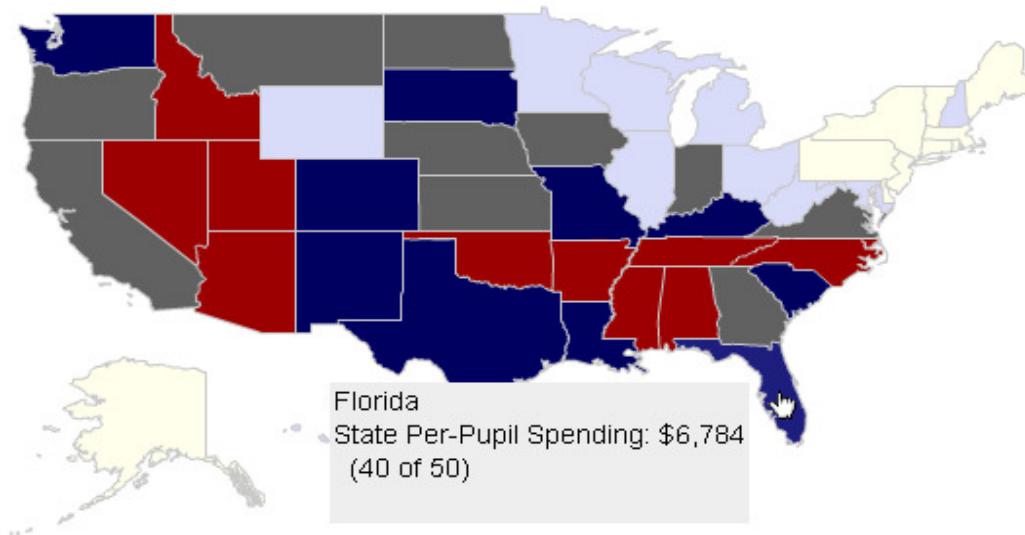
- [Federal Education Budget Project Launch](#)
- [Chancellor Rhee Tackles Teacher Seniority](#)
- [Subsidizing School Construction in Massachusetts](#)

National Rankings – Per Pupil Spending

STATE PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES

This map compares states by per-pupil expenditure; click on the map to view the data and rank for each state. The Federal Education Budget Project's [analysis](#) of the relevant data appears below.

Choose Another Map ▾



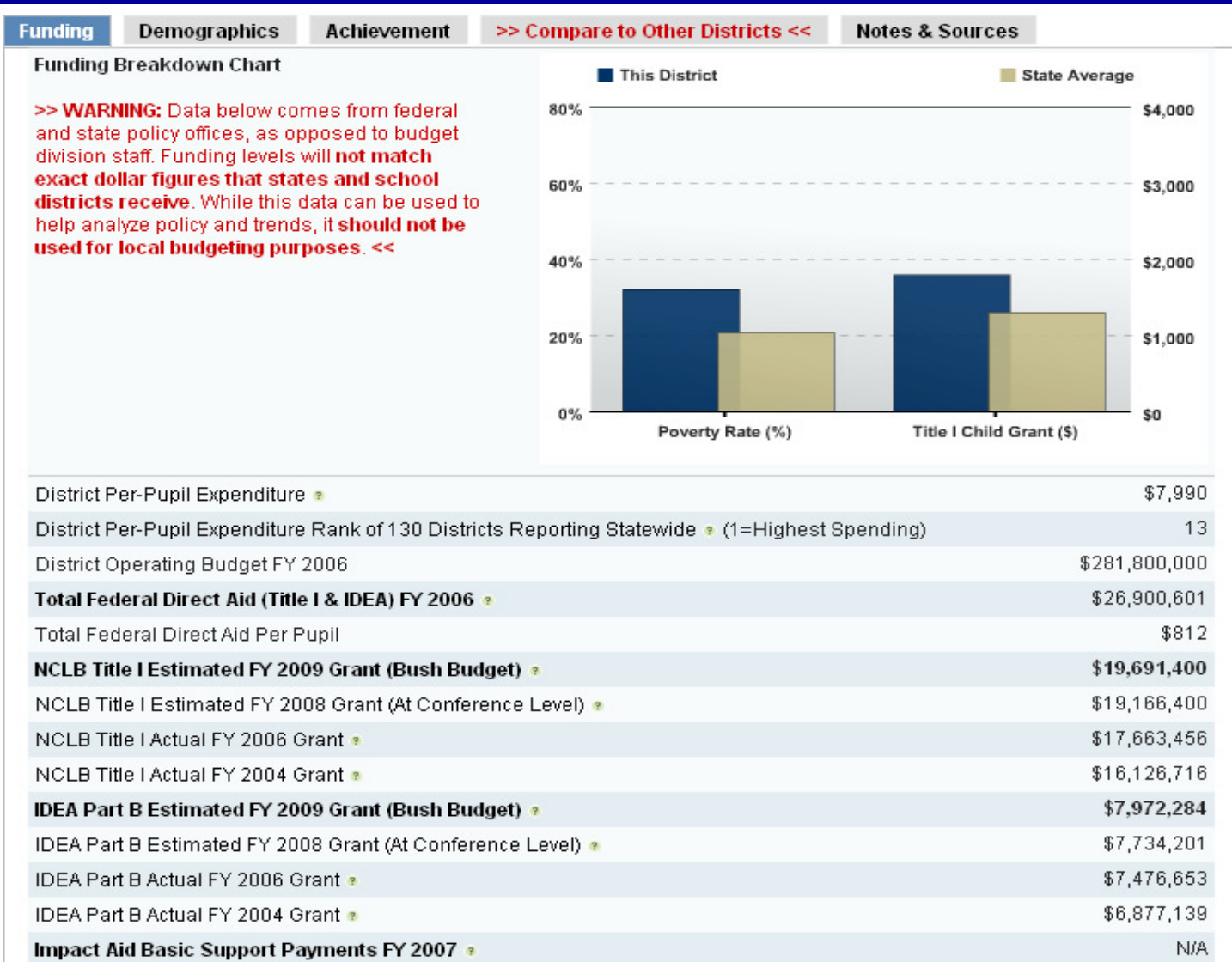
1. New Jersey
2. New York
3. Vermont
4. Connecticut
5. Massachusetts
6. Delaware
7. Alaska
8. Pennsylvania
9. Rhode Island
10. Maine
11. Wyoming
12. Wisconsin
13. Maryland
14. Michigan
15. Ohio
16. New Hampshire
17. Illinois
18. Hawaii
19. West Virginia
20. Minnesota
21. Indiana
22. Virginia
23. Nebraska
24. Montana
25. California



ANALYSIS

- **Interstate inequities in annual per-pupil expenditure are dramatic, particularly when aggregated.** [1] The top five spending states in the country—New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts—spend, on average, twice as much per-pupil as the bottom five spending states—Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Mississippi.

Birmingham City – Funding Page



All the available data for Alabama is **available for download** as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Birmingham City – Achievement Page

BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Funding, achievement and demographic data for this district is detailed below. To return to the main Alabama page or nationwide map, please use the links above.

[Funding](#)

[Demographics](#)

[Achievement](#)

[>> Compare to Other Districts <<](#)

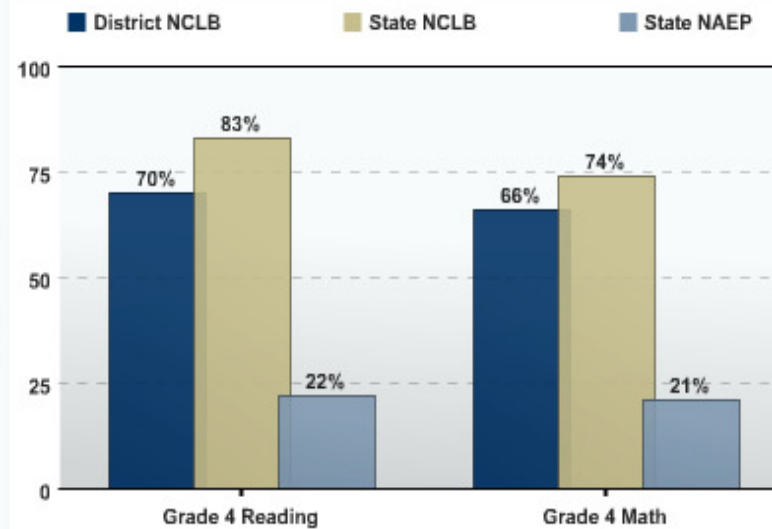
[Notes & Sources](#)

Achievement Overview

NCLB scores are based on state-defined standards, while NAEP standards are set by the federal government and are consistent nationwide.

Percentage figures presented reflect the proportion of students learning at grade level, according to state NCLB and national NAEP standards, respectively.

The percentage of students deemed proficient as per NCLB scores tends to be higher than the percentage deemed proficient as per NAEP scores, because state-defined standards of proficiency tend to be lower.



	District NCLB (2004-05)	State NCLB (2004-05)	State NAEP (2005)
Percentage of Grade 4 Students Proficient in Reading	70%	83%	22%
Percentage of Grade 4 Students Proficient in Math	66%	74%	21%



All the available data for Alabama is [available for download](#) as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

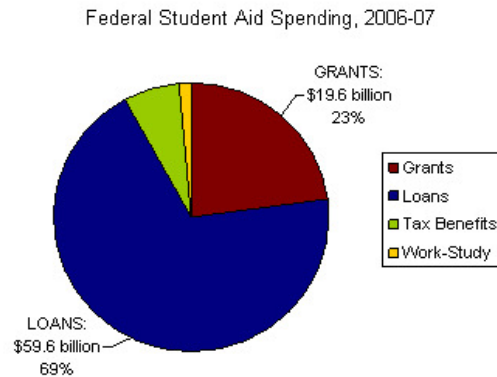
Resources – Higher Education

EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAM

Higher Education Overview

The federal government funds higher education primarily through student-based financial aid (i.e. vouchers), in contrast to K-12 education funding, which is mostly institution-based (i.e. much like aid to local school districts). Higher education federal aid is targeted to the financially-neediest students, although in recent years the federal government has expanded higher education funding to include support for middle class families.

Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) established the first federal grant and loan programs. When the HEA was first passed, its emphasis was on expanding college access by providing grant aid to low-income students who otherwise would not pursue post-secondary education. As college costs have increased over time, the federal government's investment in higher education has shifted to also support heightened college affordability by providing relatively low-interest student loans. Today, approximately 70 percent of federal student aid funding is in the form of government guaranteed and subsidized student loans and only 23 percent is in the form of grants. Tax benefits make up about 5 percent of total federal aid.



[Grant Programs](#)

The federal government provides \$18.6 billion a year in grant aid to help individuals pay for a higher education. Nearly all of the aid is directed to students from lower income families. Grant aid does not need to be paid back and generally may be used to pay for tuition, housing and other expenses at any institution of higher education that the recipient wishes to attend. The largest federal grant program is the Pell Grant program, followed by the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant program. These two programs award grants based solely on a student's financial status. Two new grant programs established in 2006, Academic Competitiveness Grants and SMART grants, provide grant aid to students from lower income families who meet additional criteria, such as academic achievement and course of study. These four programs account for almost all federal higher education grant aid.

[Tax Benefits](#)

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- ▶ [HigherEdWatch.org](#)

Policy Papers

FEDERAL EDUCATION BUDGET PROJECT

ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS: A NEEDLESS AND CONFUSING EDUCATION BUDGET TECHNIQUE

By Jason Delisle*

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

Ed Money Watch.Org Blog

THE ED MONEY WATCH BLOG

Chancellor Rhee Tackles Teacher Seniority

Lindsey Luebchow - May 29, 2008 - 11:30am

[The Washington Post reports](#) that D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee is taking steps to end teacher seniority preferences in the District's teachers union contract, as part of ongoing contract negotiations with the Washington Teachers' Union. This is an important, and contentious, teacher pay reform that holds promise for reversing inequitable teacher distribution patterns between low- and high-poverty schools in the district.

Within-District Teacher Disparities

Seniority preferences allow teachers with the most experience to transfer to any open teaching position in a district, which means the most experienced teachers tend to gravitate to the lowest-poverty schools and those with the most ideal teaching conditions. [This leaves the highest poverty schools, with the neediest students, with teaching staffs composed largely of rookie teachers.](#)



Within-district teacher quality disparities perpetuate the achievement gap, particularly in large districts like Washington, D.C., which as a heterogeneous mix of schools and students. Higher-income, high-performing schools in the affluent Northwest neighborhoods and Capitol Hill attract the most experienced teachers away from lower-income, low-performing schools in the Northeast.

In addition, these teacher distribution patterns lead to [significant spending disparities between schools in the same district](#). Most teacher contracts determine district-wide salary levels based on teacher experience and education credentials. Thus if one school has ten teachers who have been teaching for 20 years, while another school has ten first-year teachers, the first school is going to receive more money from the district for teacher salaries. That school—likely with higher-income, less challenging students—will have a higher per-pupil expenditure.



Analysis, reporting, and commentary on education finance, with a focus on the budget process, fiscal policies, and their real world impact

NEW AMERICA BLOGS

- [The American Strategist](#)
- [Blockbuster Democracy](#)
- [Climate Action](#)
- ▼ [Ed Policy Watch](#)
 - [Early Ed Watch](#)
 - [Ed Money Watch](#)
 - [Higher Ed Watch](#)
- [The Ladder](#)
- [New America Voices](#)
- [New Health Dialogue](#)
- [21st Century Taxation](#)