

Definitions

Current Expenditures – The expenditures for operating local public schools, excluding capital outlay and interest on school debt. These expenditures include such items as salaries for school personnel, fixed charges, student transportation, school books and materials, and energy costs.

Fall Enrollment – The count of the pupils registered in the fall of the school year.

Revenue: Revenue receipts for public school purposes derive from three main sources:

Local – Includes all funds for direct expenditures by local and intermediate districts for school services, for the operation of intermediate departments of education, for employer contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of public school employees, for the purchase of materials for distribution of local school districts, etc.

State – All funds for the operation of the state department of education, for state (employer) contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of school employees, for grants in aid to intermediate and local school districts for school purposes (including funds available from state bond issues for such grants and the costs of textbooks, buses, supplies, etc., purchased by the state for distribution to local school districts), for the payment of interest on state bonds issued to provide grants to local school districts, and all other state revenue for public school purposes.

Federal – Includes money distributed from the Federal treasury either directly to local school districts or through the state and county, including: grants for vocational education; aid to federally affected areas; school lunch and milk programs; educating American Indians in local public schools; and money derived from Federal forest reserves and Federal oil royalties.

Public School Teacher – A staff member assigned the professional activities of instructing pupils in self-contained classes or courses, or in classroom situations.

NOTE - THE ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE DERIVED PRIMARILY FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S (NEA) PUBLICATION, "RANKING OF THE STATES 2004 AND ESTIMATES OF SCHOOL STATISTICS 2005." NEA ATTEMPTS TO COLLECT DATA FROM STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, HOWEVER NOT ALL STATES RESPOND TO THE NEA. IN THESE INSTANCES, NEA HAS PROVIDED AN ESTIMATE. IN ADDITION, STATES THAT DO RESPOND TO THE NEA MAY NOT REPORT INFORMATION IN A CONSISTENT MANNER. CROSS STATE COMPARISONS SHOULD BE VIEWED CAUTIOUSLY.

How Rhode Island Schools Compare

What is RIPEC?

RIPEC is an independent, non-partisan voice and catalyst for effective, efficient and equitable government in Rhode Island, offering solutions to critical issues facing the Ocean State by providing accurate, objective research and focusing public attention on those issues.

RIPEC works for better government in two ways.

1. RIPEC publications present facts, identify problems, explore alternatives and propose actions to improve government.
2. RIPEC provides research assistance in support of public and private sector efforts to improve government.

To learn more about RIPEC, including how you can support its activities, write to:

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