Average Expenditure per Pupil

Comparative Norms
- U.S.: $9,666
- U.S. Census Bureau, Public Education Finance (2008)
- IL: $9,907, Illinois State Board of Education (SY 2007 - 2008)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average expenditure per pupil increased to $9,666 in 2006-07, a figure that includes expenditures for the instruction of prekindergarten through 12th grade children, as well as support activities such as guidance counseling, administration, transportation, plant operation & maintenance, and food services. Instruction costs, (wages, salaries and employee benefits) generally comprise the bulk of this figure.¹ The national No Child Left Behind Act, which places great emphasis on academic performance, financially penalizes school districts for not improving student standardized testing scores over time. According to the Brookings Institution there is not a strong correlation between higher per pupil spending and greater test scores. The top spending district in the country, Washington D.C., has some of the lowest standardized test scores, while some states have students who perform very well on the tests, yet spend the least on its students.