



### Cost Per-Day for Extended School Year

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#### Cost Per-Day Estimations

Extending the school year has become a topic of interest to many state and federal policymakers. Prior to deciding to extend the school year it is important for policymakers to understand the associated costs. The school year runs about 180 days in most states, but for teachers the year is longer due to inservice and other non-student contact days. Data from the U.S. Department of Education show 66% of total education expenditures go toward instruction costs; however, this amount varies from state to state.

The table below gives a rough estimate of the total cost and the instructional cost of school operation in each state. Caution: This is a rough estimate; there are a number of constraints outside the scope of this StateNote to be considered when calculating a real amount for analytical purposes.

	Length of School Year	Estimated Expenditures for Public Schools For 2006-07	Estimated Total Cost Per Day	Instructional Expenditures as a % of Total Expenditures	Estimated Instructional Cost Per Day
Alabama	175	\$5,673,616,000	\$32,420,663	64.3%	\$20,846,486
Alaska	180	\$1,380,530,000	\$7,669,611	62.5%	\$4,793,507
Arizona	175	\$5,888,332,000	\$33,647,611	62.4%	\$20,996,110
Arkansas	178	\$4,050,028,000	\$22,752,966	65.9%	\$14,994,205
California	180	\$55,511,744,000	\$308,398,578	67.1%	\$206,935,446
Colorado	170	\$7,063,139,000	\$41,547,876	62.3%	\$25,884,327
Connecticut	180	\$7,461,678,000	\$41,453,767	67.1%	\$27,815,477
Delaware*	180	\$1,536,293,000	\$8,534,961	62.4%	\$5,325,816
District of Columbia	180	\$979,612,000	\$5,442,289	61.1%	\$3,325,239
Florida	180	\$22,624,018,000	\$125,688,989	65.4%	\$82,200,599
Georgia	180	\$14,335,118,000	\$79,639,544	68.8%	\$54,792,007
Hawaii	183	\$1,885,019,000	\$10,300,650	65.6%	\$6,757,227
Idaho	170	\$1,919,802,000	\$11,292,953	65.8%	\$7,430,763
Illinois	185	\$22,037,871,000	\$119,123,627	63.9%	\$76,119,998
Indiana	180	\$9,659,508,000	\$53,663,933	63.8%	\$34,237,589
Iowa	180	\$3,933,003,000	\$21,850,017	66.0%	\$14,421,011
Kansas	186	\$4,146,612,000	\$22,293,613	64.0%	\$14,267,912
Kentucky*	180	\$5,469,063,000	\$30,383,683	65.7%	\$19,962,080
Louisiana	177	\$5,851,062,000	\$33,056,847	65.2%	\$21,553,065
Maine	180	\$2,361,939,000	\$13,121,883	70.2%	\$9,211,562
Maryland	180	\$8,764,940,000	\$48,694,111	69.3%	\$33,745,019
Massachusetts	180	\$12,870,218,000	\$71,501,211	69.4%	\$49,621,841

	Length of School Year	Estimated Expenditures for Public Schools For 2006-07	Estimated Total Cost Per Day	Instructional Expenditures as a % of Total Expenditures	Estimated Instructional Cost Per Day
Michigan	185	\$17,704,565,000	\$95,700,351	61.8%	\$59,142,817
Minnesota*	180	\$8,404,587,000	\$46,692,150	69.7%	\$32,544,429
Mississippi	180	\$3,392,666,000	\$18,848,144	64.7%	\$12,194,749
Missouri	174	\$7,339,896,000	\$42,183,310	65.1%	\$27,461,335
Montana	180	\$1,253,854,000	\$6,965,856	65.0%	\$4,527,806
Nebraska*	180	\$2,385,974,000	\$13,255,411	67.2%	\$8,907,636
Nevada	180	\$2,969,158,000	\$16,495,322	66.4%	\$10,952,894
New Hampshire	180	\$2,221,731,000	\$12,342,950	68.0%	\$8,393,206
New Jersey	180	\$20,377,229,000	\$113,206,828	62.6%	\$70,867,474
New Mexico	180	\$2,968,830,000	\$16,493,500	60.9%	\$10,044,542
New York	180	\$39,914,079,000	\$221,744,883	71.2%	\$157,882,357
North Carolina	180	\$11,225,216,000	\$62,362,311	66.7%	\$41,595,662
North Dakota	173	\$786,605,000	\$4,546,850	62.8%	\$2,855,422
Ohio	182	\$19,705,080,000	\$108,269,670	63.6%	\$68,859,510
Oklahoma	180	\$4,526,694,000	\$25,148,300	60.5%	\$15,214,722
Oregon*	180	\$5,059,393,000	\$28,107,739	63.3%	\$17,792,199
Pennsylvania	180	\$20,588,194,000	\$114,378,856	65.5%	\$74,918,150
Rhode Island	180	\$1,866,520,000	\$10,369,556	68.9%	\$7,144,624
South Carolina	180	\$6,396,072,000	\$35,533,733	65.9%	\$23,416,730
South Dakota	170	\$990,783,000	\$5,828,135	63.2%	\$3,683,382
Tennessee	180	\$6,896,413,000	\$38,313,406	69.5%	\$26,627,817
Texas	180	\$36,836,951,000	\$204,649,728	65.8%	\$134,659,521
Utah	180	\$2,696,707,000	\$14,981,706	68.4%	\$10,247,487
Vermont	175	\$1,239,093,000	\$7,080,531	67.7%	\$4,793,520
Virginia	180	\$12,033,240,000	\$66,851,333	67.6%	\$45,191,501
Washington	180	\$8,977,812,000	\$49,876,733	64.2%	\$32,020,863
West Virginia	180	\$2,832,919,000	\$15,738,439	64.3%	\$10,119,816
Wisconsin	180	\$9,145,695,000	\$50,809,417	66.4%	\$33,737,453
Wyoming	175	\$1,127,688,000	\$6,443,931	64.5%	\$4,156,336

\*These states do not have a statewide policy for the number of days in the school year. 180 days was used for calculations.

#### How the Information in this chart was calculated:

*Total Cost Per Day:* Total expenditures divided by the number of school days.  
*Instructional Cost Per Day:* Total expenditures divided by number of school days multiplied by the instructional expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures.

## Sources of Information:

### Length of School Year

National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics Tables and Figures 2005*. Washington, DC: NCES 2004. [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d05/tables/dt05\\_123.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d05/tables/dt05_123.asp) (Accessed January 2007)

### Estimated Expenditure for Public Schools (2006-07)

National Education Association, *Rankings & Estimates: Rankings of the States 2006 and Estimates of School Statistics 2007*. (Summary Table K). Washington, DC: NEA December 2007. <http://www.nea.org/edstats/images/07rankings.pdf> (Accessed January 2008)

## **Instructional Costs As A Percentage of Total Educational Costs**

National Center for Education Statistics, Overview of Public Elementary and Secondary Students, Staff, Schools, School Districts, Revenues, and Expenditures: School Year 2004-05 and Fiscal Year 2004  
Washington, DC: NCES November 2006.

[http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/overview04/tables/table\\_8CT.asp?referer=table](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/overview04/tables/table_8CT.asp?referer=table)

*This is an update and expansion of a Statenote completed in January, 2007 by Stephanie Fonda, an intern in the ECS Information Clearinghouse.*

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