The New York City school district not only has the most students, but also the highest per pupil spending among the 100 largest school systems in the country.*

* Please see May 2019 Census press release for more detail on school district spending per pupil in the U.S.

** Total enrollment includes: all general and special education students in DOE facilities; special education pre-k and school-age students in contract schools; 3-k and pre-k students in DOE sites and Early Education Centers; and charter school students. From 1990 through 1998, enrollment numbers come from New York City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports; from 1999 on, enrollment numbers come from the Mayor’s Management Reports.

UPDATED: On February 18, 2020, these charts and graphs were revised to correct an error in the reported amount of debt service funded by state aid. In addition, starting in 2002, the charts and graphs now include health insurance costs carried outside the DOE budget for education department staff and retirees.
The fully loaded DOE budget—including operations, debt service, and pension contributions—totaled more than $33 billion in 2019.

*DOE operations do not include intracity sales or interfund agreements.

**Data on health care contributions on behalf of DOE only available beginning in 2002.
Spending on DOE operations, representing both city-funded and reimbursable programs, increased an average of $347 million a year from 1990 through 2019.
City pension contributions rose steadily from 2001 through 2017, growing by an average of $224 million a year.
From 1990 through 2019, debt service, including Transitional Finance Authority and lease debt, rose an average of $83 million a year.

Department of Education Spending Since 1990

Debt Service Levels and Annual Changes

In 2019 dollars

Beginning/Ending Debt Service
Increase
Decrease
From 2003 through 2019, health care contributions rose an average of $6 million a year.

*Data on health care contributions on behalf of DOE only available beginning in 2002.
Department of Education Spending Since 1990

Sources of Funds Committed to DOE
Includes Funding for Debt Service and Pensions

DOE expenditures are funded by a mix of city, state, federal, and private funds.
Including debt service and pension costs, city funds now represent almost 60 percent of total spending. As the city's share of spending has risen, the state's share has declined.
City funds are now estimated to comprise just over 50 percent of funding for DOE operations.

*Share of private funds not shown here.