

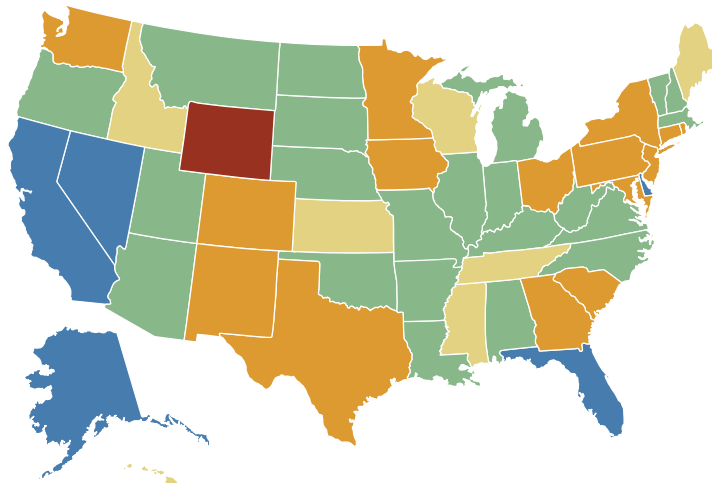
Facilities

Facilities Construction Expenditures Per Student

Construction Expenditures per Student

- Less than \$500
- \$500 - \$999
- \$1,000 - \$1,499
- \$1,500 - \$1,999
- \$2,000 or more

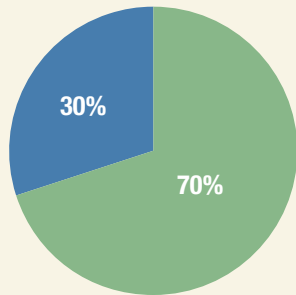
National Average
\$1,086
 per student
 (2005 - 2008)



Source: State Capital Spending on PK-12 Facilities, 21st Century School Fund, November 2010

- Louisiana ranks among the states putting the least amount of funding into school facilities. In fact, Louisiana is one of only seven states in the country that does not dedicate state funding for public school maintenance, repair, or construction.
- On average, 88% of schools in Louisiana report a need to upgrade or repair buildings.
- Thirty-nine percent of schools in the state have at least one inadequate building and 50 percent of schools have at least one inadequate feature, e.g., roof, plumbing, HVAC.

Source: Government Accountability Office – School Facilities: State Profiles, 2005



Louisiana Does Not Provide Funding for Facilities

- 70% of MFP funding is required to be used for instructional purposes
- 30% of the MFP is used for all other expenses, including utilities, employee and retiree benefits, and student transportation

- The MFP dictates local and state funding sources, the primary source of school funding in Louisiana.
- The MFP formula does not dedicate funds to capital repair and maintenance.
- School districts must use the MFP to cover instructional expenses first. Instructional expenses are related to activities dealing directly with interaction between students and teachers and activities designed to improve teaching and the process of learning.
- All other expenditures covered by general funds must be paid for out of the remaining 30% of funds. This includes, among other things, administration of the school, services provided centrally (such as planning and evaluation), student transportation, and all expenses related to operating and maintaining the physical plant of schools (including repairs of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and security).

Why Are School Facilities Important?

Our educational facilities are an important investment because our children and teachers spend most of their day inside these buildings. Many research studies have shown that school facilities affect the outcome of student performance.

- **Teacher Retention:** Poor building conditions greatly increase the likelihood that teachers will leave their school – a troubling fact given the need for more and better teachers in most disadvantaged schools.
- **Absenteeism:** Overcrowded schools lead to higher absenteeism for both students and teachers and have detrimental effects on children’s ability to learn and perform well.
- **Cognitive Abilities:** Cognitive requirements for learning – motivation, energy, attention, hearing, and seeing – are affected by the physical surroundings where they take place.
- **Classroom Environment:** The amount of natural light, the indoor air quality, the temperature, and the cleanliness of schools and classrooms all impact student learning.

Source: Do School Facilities Affect Academic Outcomes? National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, 2002

Estimated Amount of Facilities Needs on a Per Pupil Basis

A December 2008 study by the American Federation of Teachers identified the school infrastructure funding needs of states across the nation. Because some states lack statewide facilities assessments, they were matched with similar states that do have a usable assessment. **Louisiana is matched with South Carolina because Louisiana has never conducted an assessment of school facilities across the state.**

Based on this study, Louisiana needs the second highest amount (\$10,070) of estimated funding per pupil for facilities in the nation after Hawaii (\$18,373).

Source: Building Minds, Minding Buildings: School Infrastructure Funding Need, American Federation of Teachers (2008)

States	Per Pupil Need
Hawaii	\$18,373
Louisiana, South Carolina	\$10,070
Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	\$9,726
North Carolina, Virginia	\$7,086
Alabama, Mississippi	\$6,943
Alaska	\$5,834
Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin	\$5,065
West Virginia, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming	\$4,257
California	\$3,943
Tennessee, Indiana, Oklahoma	\$3,807
Georgia, Florida	\$3,365
Texas	\$2,855
Kentucky	\$1,505