

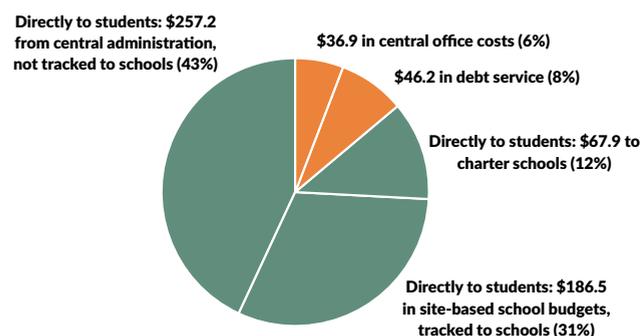
School funding: Meeting students' needs?

When we consider whether all students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools have access to high quality opportunities to learn, key questions include how much money is spent on students, and how much of what is spent is different from school to school. Currently, the district doesn't track all spending on students down to the building level. In part, this is because costs such as transportation and maintenance (see the chart and table below) are shared across buildings. However, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (which replaced No Child

Left Behind) requires states to begin reporting district- and school-level spending by the 2018-19 school year.

A+ Schools advocates for distributing resources based on the needs of the students in each school, and directing resources toward improving learning outcomes. To create a strategy, we must know what resources we have to work with, how those resources are currently being allocated, and if resources are being spent in ways that maximize student learning.

Pittsburgh Public Schools spends 86% of its total budget directly on students in district and charter schools.



Percentage of 2017 PPS budget spent directly on students (in millions)

Currently, less than half of the money spent on students is trackable down to the school building level.

Site-based budgets (trackable)	Central office (currently not trackable)
Average teacher salaries	Transportation
Principal salaries	Facilities and maintenance
Some supplies	School security
Small discretionary budget	Nurses
	Special education
	Other costs

What can you do?

We know that money matters when it comes to improving student outcomes, especially for economically disadvantaged students.* You can help our children with the greatest needs by becoming an advocate for equitable funding in Pittsburgh's schools.

1. Get informed: Review the comparison charts in this report (pages 17 to 21) to compare schools' site-based budgets.
2. Start a conversation: Ask your school board member about the differences in spending from building to building and how they plan to address any inequities that currently exist.
3. Join us: Before the school board reviews and passes a budget in December, join us in calling for greater transparency, a better focus on funding schools based on students' individual needs, and greater accountability for what is being spent so that we see the results we want: students learning at high levels in all of our schools.

To get involved, email info@aplusschools.org and put "School budgets" in the subject line. One of our team will get back to you with information about upcoming school budget meetings and training opportunities for individuals who are interested in testifying to the board about the need for more equitable spending at Pittsburgh schools.

* Carey, K. and Harris, E. "It Turns Out Spending More Probably Does Improve Education." *New York Times*, December 12, 2016, www.nytimes.com/2016/12/12/nyregion/it-turns-out-spending-more-probably-does-improve-education.html.