**School-Level Spending FAQs**

*Below are questions your district should be prepared to answer about school-level spending in your district. This FAQ document can be turned into a handout, posted on your district’s website or used as a reference guide for district representatives when speaking with key community members (e.g., educators, parents, civil rights leaders).*

**How do schools currently receive their funding?**

* + Our district receives funds from a mix of local, state, and federal sources. The amount of funding is determined locally by the local school board and/or district officials.

Has data been available around school-level spending previously?

* + Our district has reported spending at the district level since 1992. The 2019-2020 school year (2018-2019 data year) will be the first year that we report spending at the school level on the [Nebraska Education Profile](https://nep.education.ne.gov/), our state report card. Together, we’ll learn how school-spending impacts student outcomes in our schools. This new information will help our district to better meet the unique needs of all students in a fair and equitable way.

Why hasn’t the district reported spending at the school level before?

* + While Nebraska already reports spending at the district level, we have not had the systems in place to report spending at the school level prior to the 2019-2020 school year (2018-2019 data year).
	+ Tracking spending at the school level for items like a principal’s salary, a textbook, or a desk may seem easy, but becomes more complicated with costs that are spread across multiple schools or even the whole district, such as buses that transport children to multiple schools, supports for students with disabilities, or English language instructors who work in more than one school building.

What does “per-pupil expenditure” mean?

* + “Per-pupil expenditure” describes the average amount of money districts and schools spend on each student they serve.

Where can I access school-level/district funding information?

* + You can find more information about school-level funding for our district on the [Nebraska Education Profile](https://nep.education.ne.gov/), our state report card. Information on other school- and district-level funding from across our state is also available at the same location.

What will your district do to make funding distributions more equitable?

* + Understanding how funding is spent at the school level will help drive important conversations about equity and whether funds are being spent fairly to support the students who need them most. It’s important to note that equity doesn’t mean equal. In order to meet the unique needs of every student and school, we must go beyond providing the same (or equal) experience and resources. This is a vital part of working to provide resources that prepare all students to succeed, particularly [**customize based on your district:** our students living in poverty, students who have experienced trauma in or outside of school, and our students receiving additional support services, including English learners and students with disabilities].

What can I learn about my child’s school through its funding?

* + Just as one report card grade doesn’t define a whole student, school-level spending should be viewed in relation to each school’s unique needs. Spending may differ from school to school to meet the unique needs of the students each school serves.