



2018-2019 EDUCATION FAST FACTS

- Florida has the 3rd largest public school system in the country, serving more than 2,834,000 students in the 2018-2019 school year. This is an increase of 12,089 students over the 2017-2018 school year. Over the past 5 years, Florida's student enrollment has increased by an average of about 25,935 students each year.
- The statewide average teacher salary for all degree levels in 2017-2018 was \$48,168. This represents an increase of \$310 over the average teacher salary for 2016-2017. The average benefits package is valued at about 25% of salary. Florida ranks 35th among the 50 states in average teacher salary and is more than \$9,500 below the national average.
- The Florida Constitution, as amended in 2002, sets class size limits on core curriculum classrooms with a limit of 18 students in PreK-3 classrooms, a limit of 22 students in grade 4-8 classrooms, and a limit of 25 students in grade 9-12 classrooms. Florida's student-to-teacher ratio is lower than the national average, Florida still ranks 29th among the 50 states in average student-to-teacher ratio.
- Florida has about 337,792 full-time public school employees – including 202,125 full-time instructional staff and 122,231 support staff – making Florida's public school system one of the largest employers in the state and, often, the largest employer in each county. District and school administrators make up about 3.9% of all public school employees.
- The 2018-2019 basic operating budget for K-12 public education – as provided through the Florida Education Finance Program – is more than \$21 billion. This provides an average of about \$7,429 per student. Florida ranks 42nd among the 50 states in per pupil operating expenditures and is \$2,665 below the national average for per pupil expenditures.
- Based on 2018-2019 appropriations, this year Florida will spend an average of more than \$117,000,000 each school day to operate its public schools. Most of these dollars flow into the local economy and support local economic development.
- In 2017-2018, the Lottery provided nearly \$1,032,000,000 for K-12 public schools with \$717 million allocated for operating purposes and \$314 million allocated for capital purposes. The \$717 million allocated for operating purposes would be sufficient to operate public schools for about 6, days. Since 1990, the K-12 public schools share of total Lottery appropriations has declined from 75% to 52%.
- According to 2018 assessment results, 1,040 schools received an A (compared to 987 in 2017), 858 schools received a B (880 in 2017), 1,181 received a C (1,172 in 2017), 195 received a D (224 in 2017), and 35 received an F (43 in 2017). Of the 3,309 schools receiving a grade, 93% received a grade of A, B, or C.
- There are more than 4,300 public schools in Florida, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, ESE centers, alternative schools, vocational/technical, and adult centers. Among the 50 states, Florida has the 2nd largest number of students assigned to each elementary school and exceeds the national average by nearly 200 students per school. Florida has the largest number of students assigned to each secondary school and exceeds the national average by 750 students per school.
- The average cost (*not* including land purchase) to build a regular elementary school is about \$18 million, a regular middle school costs about \$27 million, and a regular high school costs about \$65 million.