The perfect per-pupil expenditure is the one that accomplishes the job reliably and efficiently, but it will always be a work in progress. Education is a labor-intensive enterprise, so personnel costs alone usually account for about 85% of any school's budget. The choices about the mix of faculty expertise and programs affect the school's ability to succeed with its particular school population and its varying levels of challenges.

**Please note:** Calculations for school expenditures use a student count based on Average Daily Enrollment/Membership (ADM).