

School Tax and Spending Report 2024

A report by the Utah Taxpayers Association





Methodology

The Utah Taxpayers Association compiles data from the Utah State Board of Education's annual reports to compare spending trends between the state's local education agencies (LEAs), comprised of 41 school districts and 114 charter schools.

Sources

Utah State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report, 2023

Utah State Board of Education, Superintendent's Annual Report, 2023

Utah State Tax Commission, 2023 Tax Rates

Facts and Figures

Public education is one of the largest recipients of taxpayer dollars in Utah.



Funding public education consumed **45%** of Utah's state revenue sources.



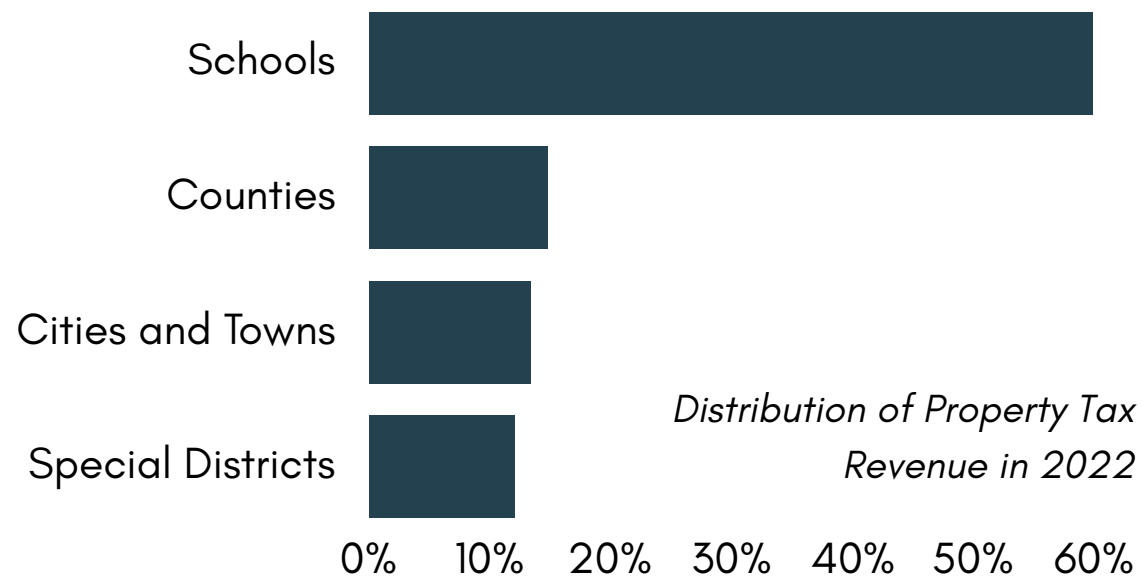
29% of all total fund sources in Utah went to public education.



In Utah, **59.86%** of all property taxes paid go to public education.



Utah's school districts and charter schools received **\$8,909,387,751** in revenues in FY 2023 and spent **\$9,296,099,568**.



Primary Funding Sources: Local Property Tax

\$2.065BN

**Local Levy
Tax Yield 2023**



Local school districts have the authority to levy property taxes directly to fund district schools.

Five major different local levies are available:

\$ Board Local Levy

Approved by the local school board for M&O and supplemented by the state. All school districts currently impose this levy.

\$ Voted Local Levy

Approved by the local school district electorate for M&O and supplemented by the state.

\$ Capital Local Levy

Approved by the local school board to fund capital projects. Some revenues may be used for M&O. All school districts currently impose this levy.

\$ Debt Service Levy

Levied to fund general obligation bonds. All school districts except for Emery, Garfield, Kane, Park City, San Juan, South Summit, and Wayne currently impose this levy.

\$ Judgement Recovery

Levied to fund a property tax judgment against the school district as a result of a successful appeal of over-collection of property tax.

Primary Funding Sources: Statewide Property Tax

\$745MM

**Statewide Levy
Revenue 2023**

The Legislature requires all school districts to implement the statewide basic levy as part of local property taxes for maintenance and operation (M&O) purposes.

The rate for 2023 is uniform statewide at 0.001406, but state income taxes fill the gap to the degree that the LEA's generated revenue falls short of the WPU.

Primary Funding Sources: Income Taxes

\$7.3BN

**Total Income Tax
Revenue 2023**

\$6.7BN

Individual Income Tax

Per the Utah State Constitution which limits its use, almost 90% of the state's individual income tax revenue is used for education purposes, including public education and higher education.

FY2023 Revenue = \$6,432,141,610

\$937MM

Corporate Franchise Tax

Similarly, most of the state's corporate franchise tax is used for education purposes, including public education and higher education.

FY2023 Revenue = \$869,902,502

Public Education Revenues

The following charts show the sources of public education revenue in Utah and where those revenues are allocated according to fund. Some revenue is restricted to a certain fund, meaning that it can only be used for certain purposes.

Beyond the taxes listed earlier in this report, other sources of education funding include: unclaimed property returned to the state (escheats), school lands trust fund, one-time legislative appropriations, fees, and donations.

Asterisks are addressed on the following page.



Fund	Local		State	Federal	Total**
	Property†	Other			
Operations*	\$1,845,718,088	\$261,428,504	\$4,317,815,476	\$643,176,438	\$7,068,138,506
Capital**	\$415,592,945	\$81,847,859	\$34,328,118	\$22,770,605	\$554,539,527
Debt Service	\$470,111,660	\$82,139,603	\$0	\$991,195	\$553,242,458
Nutrition	\$0	\$67,298,252	\$36,649,362	\$164,241,323	\$268,188,937
Non K-12	\$7,146,426	\$3,143,860	\$19,140,781	\$2,410,522	\$31,841,589
Total	\$2,738,569,119	\$495,858,078	\$4,407,933,737	\$833,590,083	\$8,475,951,017



Revenue Distributions and Revenue Per Student

Fund	Local		State	Federal	Total**
	Property†	Other			
Operations*	26%	4%	61%	9%	100%
Capital**	75%	15%	6%	4%	100%
Debt Service	85%	15%	0%	0%	100%
Nutrition	0%	25%	14%	61%	100%
Non K-12	22%	10%	60%	8%	100%
Total	32%	6%	52%	10%	100%

*Includes the general fund and student activities fund

**Includes the capital outlay fund and building reserves fund

†Includes statewide basic levy and all local levies

** This revenue total does not match the expenditure total from the facts and figures page because there is an additional revenue category for districts and charter schools, "other financing sources and uses." Additionally, revenues overall do not match expenditures because expenditures for facility construction are incurred immediately, whereas property taxes to retire construction bonds are received over several years. School districts may use revenues to increase reserves or may use existing reserves to increase expenditures.

Fund	Local		State	Federal	Total**
	Property†	Other			
Operations*	\$2,739	\$388	\$6,408	\$955	\$10,490
Capital**	\$617	\$121	\$51	\$34	\$823
Debt Service	\$698	\$122	-	\$1	\$821
Nutrition	-	\$100	\$54	\$244	\$398
Non K-12	\$11	\$5	\$28	\$4	\$47
Total	\$4,065	\$736	\$6,542	\$1,237	\$12,580

