

EDUCATION

# Idaho's 10 largest school districts: Data, resources, and transparency

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President

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**MOUNTAIN STATES**  
POLICY CENTER





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## Introduction

Understanding whether your school district has the resources it needs to be successful can be difficult. Reading a school district budget can be the equivalent of learning another language. Budget documents are a maze of numbers and legal jargon – if you can even find them. Depending on the district, they can be hidden on websites, and only accessible if you know where to look.

When you finally do track down the document, it can be very difficult to read and understand. It is a good thing that budget documents are posted online. Unfortunately, transparency doesn't mean much if it's not understandable.

In 2021, Idaho legislators passed House Bill 73, which tasks the state Controller to create a uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting procedure. It is expected to be completed by January of 2025, and it will be another tool available to track results and demand accountability.

In the 2024 legislative session, lawmakers introduced legislation to adopt the Public School Transparency Act<sup>1</sup> – a Mountain States Policy Center idea to require districts on the first page of their budgets as well as on their website, clearly report key data including spending, student to teacher ratios and more. The idea had more than 80% support in MSPC's 2022 Idaho Poll.<sup>1</sup>

While the legislation did not pass, lawmakers should continue to make it easier for parents and the community to understand budgets and compare and contrast districts across the state.

The release of all public data is paramount, but for working families and concerned citizens, certain data points are most important and should be easily found and understood – without a calculator or a degree in accounting.

This publication highlights Idaho's 10 largest school districts, the staffing of each, the average salaries of administrators, principals and teachers, and key ratios. All data contained in this publication comes directly from the school district's posted budget, as well as the Idaho Department of Education<sup>1</sup>, using the most recent year available.

<b>WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$217,915
Number of Assistant Superintendents	1
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$154,774
Number of Principals	60
Average Principal Salary	\$109,186
Number of Assistant Principals	48
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$100,503
Number of Teachers	2,183
Average Teacher Salary	\$59,206
Total district FTE's	4,582
Total spent on all salaries	\$204,294,444
Number of Students	38,670
Student to teacher ratio	18:1
Student to total district employee ratio	9:1
Total budget size	\$528,957,479
Spending per student	\$13,678

<b>BOISE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$204,337
Number of Assistant Superintendents	1
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$176,306
Number of Principals	53
Average Principal Salary	\$112,209
Number of Assistant Principals	31
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$104,373
Number of Teachers	1,478
Average Teacher Salary	\$69,219
Total district FTE's	3,079
Total spent on all salaries	\$181,413,856
Number of Students	22,495
Student to teacher ratio	15:1
Student to total district employee ratio	7:1
Total budget size	\$414,859,934
Spending per student	\$18,442

<b>BONNEVILLE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$166,070
Number of Assistant Superintendents	0
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$0
Number of Principals	24
Average Principal Salary	\$108,226
Number of Assistant Principals	11
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$101,832
Number of Teachers	712
Average Teacher Salary	\$59,448
Total district FTE's	1,607

Total spent on all salaries	\$72,473,927
Number of Students	13,665
Student to teacher ratio	19:1
Student to total district employee ratio	9:1
Total budget size	\$185,055,582
Spending per student	\$13,542

NAMPA SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$159,420
Number of Assistant Superintendents	0
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$0
Number of Principals	36
Average Principal Salary	\$76,165
Number of Assistant Principals	24
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$66,152
Number of Teachers	777
Average Teacher Salary	\$54,636
Total district FTE's	1,363
Total spent on all salaries	\$69,551,425
Number of Students	13,149
Student to teacher ratio	17:1
Student to total district employee ratio	10:1
Total budget size	\$193,769,993
Spending per student	\$14,736

POCATELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$168,650
Number of Assistant Superintendents	0
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$0
Number of Principals	22
Average Principal Salary	\$100,790
Number of Assistant Principals	14
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$91,958
Number of Teachers	655
Average Teacher Salary	\$62,544
Total district FTE's	1,390
Total spent on all salaries	\$65,122,633
Number of Students	11,992
Student to teacher ratio	19:1
Student to total district employee ratio	9:1
Total budget size	\$166,460,675
Spending per student	\$13,880

IDAHO FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$150,000
Number of Assistant Superintendents	1

Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$149,210
Number of Principals	19
Average Principal Salary	\$102,390
Number of Assistant Principals	14
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$82,625
Number of Teachers	564
Average Teacher Salary	\$59,630
Total district FTE's	1,388
Total spent on all salaries	\$57,641,565
Number of Students	10,290
Student to teacher ratio	18:1
Student to total district employee ratio	7:1
Total budget size	\$126,749,131
Spending per student	\$12,317

<b>VALLIVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$156,560
Number of Assistant Superintendents	0
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$0
Number of Principals	15
Average Principal Salary	\$97,139
Number of Assistant Principals	16
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$90,806
Number of Teachers	530
Average Teacher Salary	\$56,595
Total district FTE's	1,055
Total spent on all salaries	\$50,213,781
Number of Students	10,014
Student to teacher ratio	19:1
Student to total district employee ratio	9:1
Total budget size	\$152,198,932
Spending per student	\$15,198

<b>COEUR D'ALENE SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
Number of Superintendents	1
Superintendent Salary	\$195,758
Number of Assistant Superintendents	1
Assistant Superintendent Salary	\$136,359
Number of Principals	17
Average Principal Salary	\$103,255
Number of Assistant Principals	20
Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$92,334
Number of Teachers	583
Average Teacher Salary	\$62,451
Total district FTE's	1,322
Total spent on all salaries	\$63,000,184
Number of Students	9,769
Student to teacher ratio	17:1
Student to total district employee ratio	7:1

<b>Total budget size</b>	\$155,477,937
<b>Spending per student</b>	\$16,063

<b>TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
<b>Number of Superintendents</b>	1
<b>Superintendent Salary</b>	\$160,000
<b>Number of Assistant Superintendents</b>	1
<b>Assistant Superintendent Salary</b>	\$134,177
<b>Number of Principals</b>	17
<b>Average Principal Salary</b>	\$88,537
<b>Number of Assistant Principals</b>	16
<b>Average Assistant Principal Salary</b>	\$69,928
<b>Number of Teachers</b>	537
<b>Average Teacher Salary</b>	\$56,578
<b>Total district FTE's</b>	1,129
<b>Total spent on all salaries</b>	\$49,681,670
<b>Number of Students</b>	9,242
<b>Student to teacher ratio</b>	17:1
<b>Student to total district employee ratio</b>	8:1
<b>Total budget size</b>	\$132,955,460
<b>Spending per student</b>	\$14,386

<b>ONEIDA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	
<b>Number of Superintendents</b>	1
<b>Superintendent Salary</b>	\$140,000
<b>Number of Assistant Superintendents</b>	0
<b>Assistant Superintendent Salary</b>	0
<b>Number of Principals</b>	7
<b>Average Principal Salary</b>	\$74,153
<b>Number of Assistant Principals</b>	1
<b>Average Assistant Principal Salary</b>	\$60,000
<b>Number of Teachers</b>	498
<b>Average Teacher Salary</b>	\$34,972
<b>Total district FTE's</b>	666
<b>Total spent on all salaries</b>	\$22,518,749
<b>Number of Students</b>	8,805
<b>Student to teacher ratio</b>	18:1
<b>Student to total district employee ratio</b>	13:1
<b>Total budget size</b>	\$97,997,948
<b>Spending per student</b>	\$11,129

**Nothing in this publication shall be construed as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any legislation.**

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For more than 20 years, Chris Cargill has worked in communications and public policy. Chris has deep roots in our region and is a graduate of Gonzaga University with a degree in broadcast communications and political science. His experience includes a decade in television news as well as 13 years for another state based think tank.



Chris' work has been published in the Idaho Statesman, The Coeur d'Alene Press, The Helena Independent Record, the Spokesman-Review, The Seattle Times, the Tri-City Herald and Real Clear Policy, as well as many other regional newspapers. He is also a familiar voice on radio stations throughout the region.

Chris is a member of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 Advisory Board, which is focused preparing comprehensive policy recommendations for the next conservative presidential administration. He is also an active participant in the American Enterprise Institute's Leadership Network.

Chris & his wife Lisa are the proud parents of two boys, including one who has special needs - one of the many reasons why he is so passionate about education choice options for families.

In his spare time, Chris spends time with family, serves on his local city council, and enjoys whatever down time he can in the great outdoors on his family property in North Idaho.

