Whiteriver Unified School District

District demographic information

County:	Navajo
Operational peer group ⓘ	Operational 4
Other peer groups:	Transportation 7 and Achievement 7
Legislative district(s):	6
Location:	Town
Number of schools:	5
Students attending; Size:	2,228; Medium-large
5-year change in students attending:	3% increase
Special education population:	12%
English learner population:	1%
Poverty rate (2023):	36%
Graduation rate (2023):	70%

District's spending by operational area
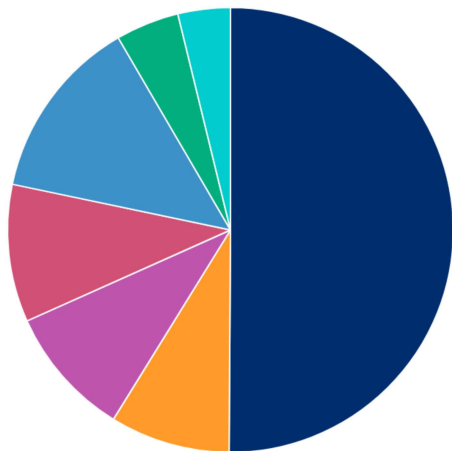
Classroom spending, 68.3%
- Instruction, 50.1%
- Student support, 8.7%
- Instruction support, 9.5%

Nonclassroom spending, 31.7%
- Administration, 10.0%
- Plant operations, 13.3%
- Food service, 4.6%
- Transportation, 3.8%

For definitions of what is included in operational spending and each of the operational areas, see the "Spending areas" section on the **Glossary page**.

Every year, school districts must decide where to allocate their resources. This pie chart shows how Whiteriver Unified School District spent its funding by operational area, including the percentage it spent in the classroom and specifically on instruction.

We categorize districts with certain similar qualities into **operational peer groups** ⓘ to help create meaningful comparisons across districts. Whiteriver Unified School District's peer group had an average instructional spending percentage of 52.0%. This number can help provide context for Whiteriver Unified School District's own instructional spending percentage.

Instructional spending percentage highlights (FYs 2001-2024)

We have monitored instructional spending since FY 2001. Below are highlights from Whiteriver Unified School District's instructional spending trend showing the most recent year-to-year change and the years it spent its highest and lowest percentages on instruction. Reviewing these instructional spending percentage highlights can provide insight into short-term (year-to-year comparison) and long-term (highest and lowest comparison) trends of a district's allocation of monies to instruction. Depending on how much a district spends in total, even small changes in a district's percentage spent on instruction can equate to large changes in the actual dollars the district spent.

Prior fiscal year	Current fiscal year
FY 2023	FY 2024
50.8%	**50.1%**

Highest fiscal year	Lowest fiscal year
FY 2007	FY 2014
67.2%	**46.1%**

Why monitor school district spending?

Most school district funding is closely tied to the number of students enrolled, and districts can choose how to spend most funding, so every decision a school district makes to spend on 1 operational area directly impacts its ability to spend on another. For example, if a district has higher spending in plant operations, it will have fewer dollars to spend on instruction.

The bar chart below, "Percentage point change in spending by area," illustrates how Whiteriver Unified School District's spending by area has changed from the prior fiscal year and 5 fiscal years ago.

To put the spending percentages in context, it also can be helpful to review a district's per student spending in dollars. For example, 2 districts may spend the same percentage of their resources on instruction, but on a per student basis, 1 district may spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars more than the other.

Percentage point change in spending by area

Compare District FY 2024 spending to:

District's FY 2019 spending (5-year comparison) ▾
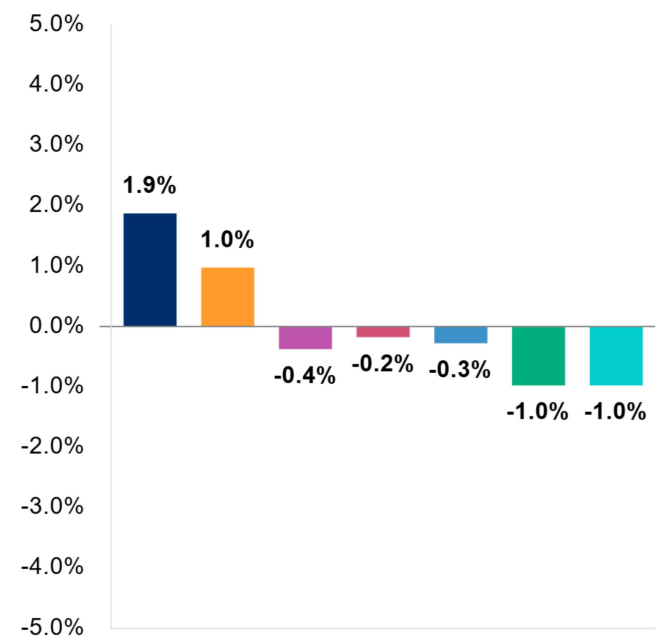
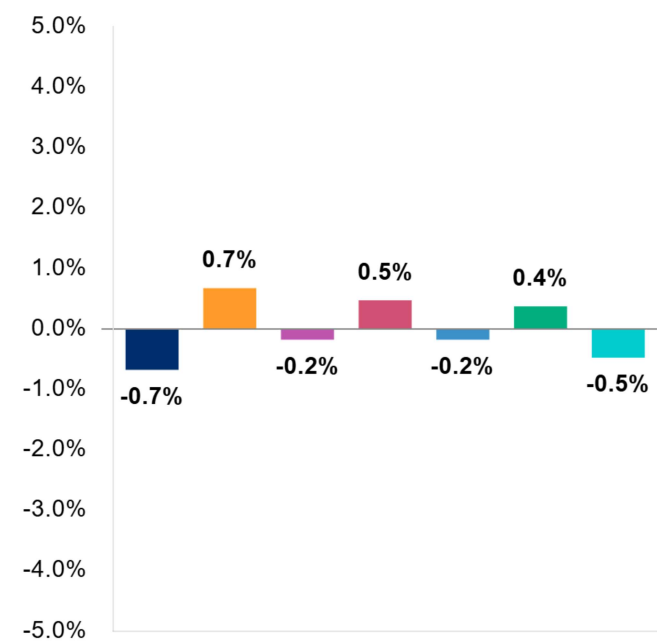**Change in classroom spending, 2.5%**
- ■ Instruction, 1.9%
- ■ Student support, 1.0%
- ■ Instruction support, -0.4%

Change in nonclassroom spending, -2.5%
- ■ Administration, -0.2%
- ■ Plant operations, -0.3%
- ■ Food service, -1.0%
- ■ Transportation, -1.0%

Compare District FY 2024 spending to:

District's FY 2023 spending (1-year comparison) ▼

Change in classroom spending, -0.2%
- ■ Instruction, -0.7%
- ■ Student support, 0.7%
- ■ Instruction support, -0.2%

Change in nonclassroom spending, 0.2%
- ■ Administration, 0.5%
- ■ Plant operations, -0.2%
- ■ Food service, 0.4%
- ■ Transportation, -0.5%

Per student spending by area

Compare District's FY 2024 spending to:

District's FY 2023 spending (1-year comparison) ▾

Area	District FY 2023	District FY 2024	1-year change
Classroom spending			
Instruction	$6,935	$6,867	-$68
Student support	$1,089	$1,191	+$102
Instruction support	$1,328	$1,298	-$30
Nonclassroom spending			
Administration	$1,294	$1,365	+$71
Plant operations	$1,848	$1,826	-$22
Food service	$580	$627	+$47
Transportation	$584	$527	-$57
Total operational	**$13,658**	**$13,701**	+$43
Land and buildings	$8,282	$11,787	+$3,505
Equipment	$379	$1,638	+$1,259
Interest	$0	$0	+$0
Other	$251	$286	+$35
Total nonoperational	**$8,912**	**$13,711**	+$4,799
Total per student spending	**$22,570**	**$27,412**	+$4,842

Compare District's FY 2024 spending to:

Peer districts' FY 2024 average spending ▼

Area	Peer average FY 2024	District FY 2024	Difference
Classroom spending			
Instruction	$5,911	$6,867	+$956
Student support	$1,085	$1,191	+$106
Instruction support	$674	$1,298	+$624
Nonclassroom spending			
Administration	$1,182	$1,365	+$183
Plant operations	$1,454	$1,826	+$372
Food service	$527	$627	+$100
Transportation	$557	$527	-$30
Total operational	**$11,390**	**$13,701**	**+$2,311**
Land and buildings	$2,499	$11,787	+$9,288
Equipment	$884	$1,638	+$754
Interest	$152	$0	-$152
Other	$108	$286	+$178
Total nonoperational	**$3,643**	**$13,711**	**+$10,068**
Total per student spending	**$15,033**	**$27,412**	**+$12,379**

Compare District's FY 2024 spending to:

State-wide FY 2024 average spending ▼

Area	State-wide FY 2024	District FY 2024	Difference
Classroom spending			
Instruction	$6,511	$6,867	+$356
Student support	$1,210	$1,191	-$19
Instruction support	$764	$1,298	+$534
Nonclassroom spending			
Administration	$1,276	$1,365	+$89
Plant operations	$1,476	$1,826	+$350
Food service	$565	$627	+$62
Transportation	$569	$527	-$42
Total operational	**$12,371**	**$13,701**	**+$1,330**
Land and buildings	$1,582	$11,787	+$10,205
Equipment	$801	$1,638	+$837
Interest	$348	$0	-$348
Other	$280	$286	+$6
Total nonoperational	**$3,011**	**$13,711**	**+$10,700**
Total per student spending	**$15,382**	**$27,412**	**+$12,030**

Operational efficiency measures

Performance measures, such as those shown below, can be used in addition to the instructional spending percentage to assess a district's operational efficiency. We have classified the District's spending relative to its peer districts' average as very low, low, comparable, high, very high, or N/A (not available or applicable). High or very high spending when compared to peer averages may signify an opportunity for improved efficiency in that area. A district's data may not be available or applicable if they did not operate a program in that operational area. For example, not all districts operate food service or transportation programs.

For more information on how we calculate these measures, see the "Operational efficiency measure calculations" section on the Glossary page.

Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average ⓘ	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Administration	Spending per student	$1,276	$1,182	$1,365	Very High
	Students per administrative position	61	68	111	N/A
Plant operations	Spending per square foot	$8.59	$8.30	$7.35	Low
	Square footage per student	172 ft^2	178 ft^2	248 ft^2	N/A
Food service	Spending per meal	$4.28	$4.17	$3.95	Low
	Meals per student	134	124	159	N/A

Transportation performance measures are compared using different peer groups because we have found there are other factors, such as the number of miles a district averages for each rider, that impact transportation spending. For more information on how
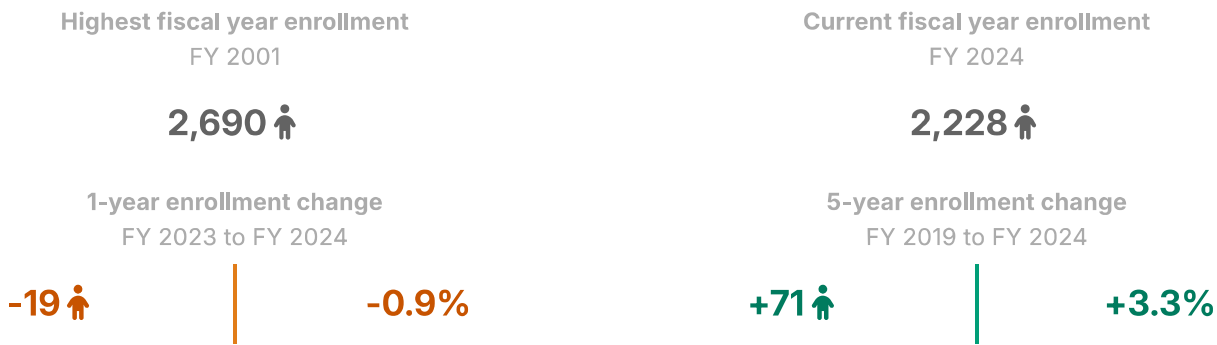
we create transportation peer groups see the "District peer groups" section on the Glossary page.

Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average ⓘ	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Transportation	Spending per mile	$6.41	$5.76	$3.44	Very Low
	Spending per rider	$2,289	$1,920	$1,050	Very Low

Why monitor student enrollment?

Monitoring trends in the State's student population and enrollment can help provide a school district with crucial information needed to plan for current and future operations. A district's funding is closely tied to the number of students enrolled in its schools. Reductions in enrollment lead to corresponding reductions in district funding (see the "Student enrollment" section of the Glossary page for more information). Although overall district enrollment declined State-wide between FYs 2023 and 2024, as did enrollment at most districts, about a third of districts experienced enrollment increases. State-wide population trends suggest, however, that enrollment at most districts will continue to decline, and districts should plan for operating schools with fewer students and reduced funding.

Enrollment highlights (FYs 2001-2024)

Highest fiscal year enrollment
FY 2001

2,690 👤

Current fiscal year enrollment
FY 2024

2,228 👤

1-year enrollment change
FY 2023 to FY 2024

-19 👤 | **-0.9%**

5-year enrollment change
FY 2019 to FY 2024

+71 👤 | **+3.3%**

Why monitor average teacher salary?

Teacher salaries are one of a school district's most substantial costs and have been a topic of high interest in recent years in Arizona. Therefore, beginning in FY 2023, we expanded our reporting on average teacher salary to provide additional information about teacher compensation and years of experience based on stakeholder feedback. The breakdown below shows Whiteriver Unified School District's average teacher salary and amount from Classroom Site Fund (CSF) monies as well as the average base salary for teachers, depending on their years of experience. The average base salary differs from the average teacher salary because the average base salary does not include additional pay teachers may receive, such as performance pay and stipends or additions to base pay unrelated to additional duties. Neither the average teacher salary nor the average base salary includes payments for additional nonteaching duties a teacher may perform for additional pay, such as tutoring, cocurricular activities, or athletics. A district's average base salary may not be available if the District did not have teachers during the fiscal year for one of the categories of years of experience. For some districts, the data did not meet our criteria for reporting, which is indicated by NR (not reliable).

The additional teacher salary information provides insight about a district's teachers' experience level and how they are compensated. For example, if a district has a large difference between the average base salary for teachers in their first 3 years and the average base salary of teachers in their 4th year or later, it indicates that the district's salary schedule provides additional base compensation to teachers as they gain additional teaching experience. If the district's total average teacher salary is substantially higher than the base salary amounts, it indicates that the district pays teachers more in performance pay and one-time payments than a district whose overall average teacher salary is similar to its base salary amounts. Further, not all districts recognize a teacher's classroom experience outside of their school district when determining a teacher's pay. The graphic below indicates whether the district reported recognizing classroom experience outside of the district. It also shows whether the district reported compensating teachers for classroom experience through placement on the district's salary schedule, meaning the teacher's experience resulted in a higher base pay, and/or by making additional payments to teachers in addition to their base pay, such as a stipend.

Additionally, it is important to consider the proportion of experienced teachers in a district's teacher population[i], which can impact a district's average teacher salary. For example, a district's total average teacher salary may have decreased since the prior year if its most experienced teachers have left district employment and the district has hired less experienced teachers to replace them. Smaller districts generally have more variation in average teacher salary and other teacher measures due to their smaller teacher population where replacing one experienced teacher with a less experienced teacher can have a more substantial year-to-year impact on reported amounts.

Average teacher salary and other teacher measures (FY 2024)

District's average teacher salary

$71,507

Amount from CSF: $13,651[i]

Average teacher salary is

+$6,394

compared to the State average

District reported that it paid any of its teachers for prior classroom experience outside the District.   **Yes**

If yes, the district reported these payments as:

| Included in base salary by being accounted for with salary schedule placement: | Yes |
| In addition to, but separate from, base salary: | No |

Average years of teacher experience

6.2 years

Percentage of teachers in their first 3 years

60%

Average base salary of teachers in their first 3 years [i]

$41,854

Percentage of teachers in their 4th year or later

40%

Average base salary of teachers in their 4th year or later [i]

$51,027

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Students per teacher [i]

16.9

Students per teacher is total students attending divided by total certified teachers. Total certified teachers includes special-area teachers such as art, music, and physical education teachers.

Districts received additional State monies intended to increase average teacher salary

In FYs 2018 through 2021, the State provided additional monies to districts to increase teacher salaries by 20 percent from the FY 2017 base year. The bar chart below shows how Whiteriver Unified School District's average teacher salary changed during this time frame and immediately after the annual State increases from FYs 2018 through 2021 ended, as well as how it compared to the State-wide average. Additionally, the chart shows the portion of the District's average teacher salary paid with CSF monies.

We have also included a table that displays other student- and teacher-related measures that may provide additional context regarding changes to Whiteriver Unified School District's average teacher salary during this timeframe. For instance, changes in a district's teacher population can impact the district's average teacher salary.

District average teacher salary compared to State average (FYs 2017-2024)
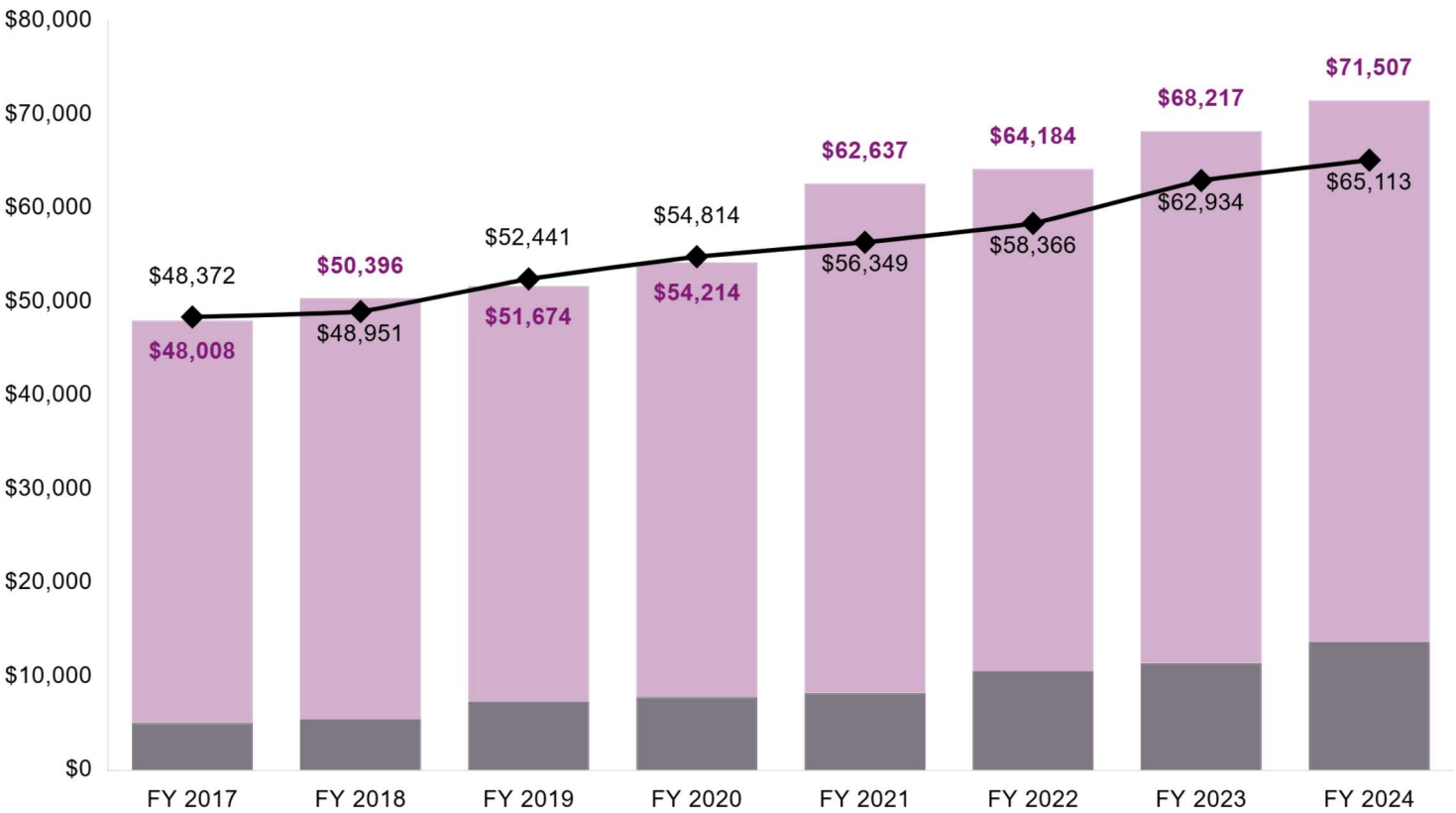
◆ State average teacher salary

District average teacher salary
- Amount from other funds
- Amount from CSF monies

District average teacher salary and other teacher measures since FY 2017

Fiscal year	District average teacher salary	Average base salary of teachers in their first 3 years	Average base salary of teachers in their 4th year or later	Students per teacher [i]	Average years of teacher experience	Percentage of teachers in their first 3 years	Percentage of teachers in their 4th year or later
2024	$71,507	$41,854	$51,027	16.9	6.2	60%	40%
2023	$68,217	$38,522	$48,291	16.5	6.4	56%	44%
2022	$64,184	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	15.0	6.9	49%	51%
2021	$62,637	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	15.0	8.0	43%	57%
2020	$54,214	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	16.6	8.3	41%	59%
2019	$51,674	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	16.7	9.5	39%	61%
2018	$50,396	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	17.8	10.0	37%	63%
2017	$48,008	N/A[1]	N/A[1]	16.6	12.4	26%	74%

[1] Data is unavailable because districts were not required to report it prior to FY 2023.
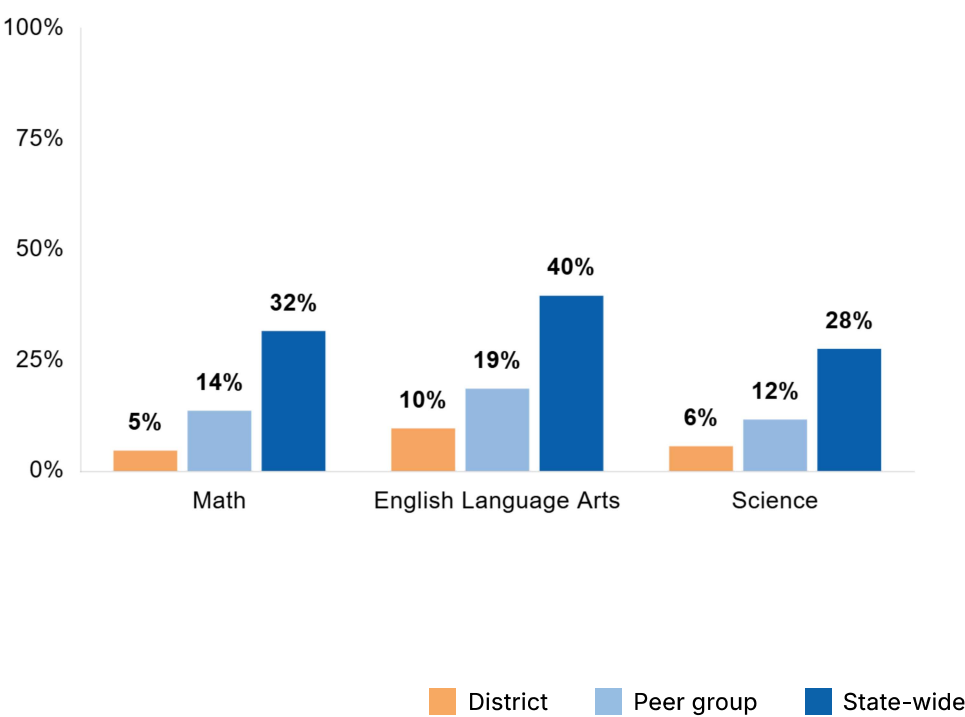
Student achievement

For FY 2024, we present an achievement peer group weighted average and the State average for comparison to the individual districts' percentage of students who passed State assessments in Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science assessments. We report a passage rate consistent with ADE's publicly available data file, and therefore, some individual districts' results may not be available due to ADE's redaction standards. For FY 2024, we also present an achievement peer group weighted average and the State average for comparison. For more information on how we create achievement peer groups, see the "District peer groups" section on the Glossary page.

Additionally, we have included the percentage of district students passing State Math, ELA, and Science assessments since FY 2019, excluding FYs 2020 and 2021. Student achievement data is not available for FY 2020 because school districts were exempted from conducting State assessments. Similarly, student achievement data is not available for FY 2021 because not all eligible students participated in testing.

FY 2019 represents student achievement scores from the year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that year's data helps to illustrate the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruptions to school district operations on student achievement.
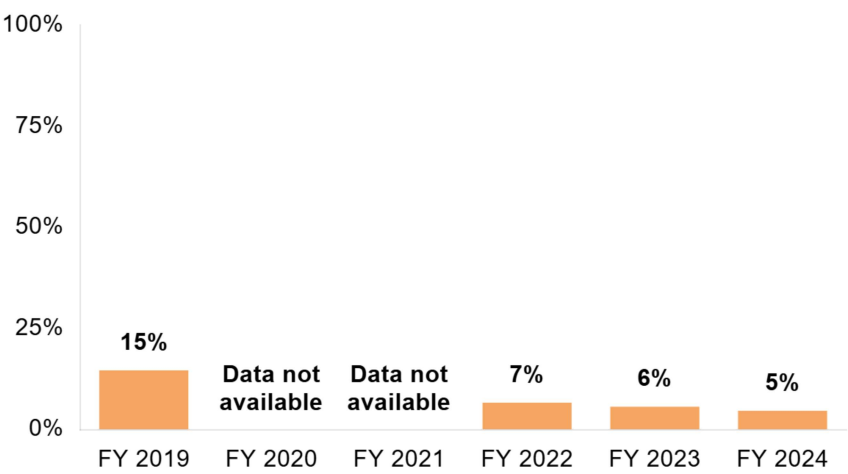
District, District peer group, and State-wide student passing percentage (FY 2024)

District's student achievement since FY 2019

View the percentage of District students who passed State assessments for:

Math ▾

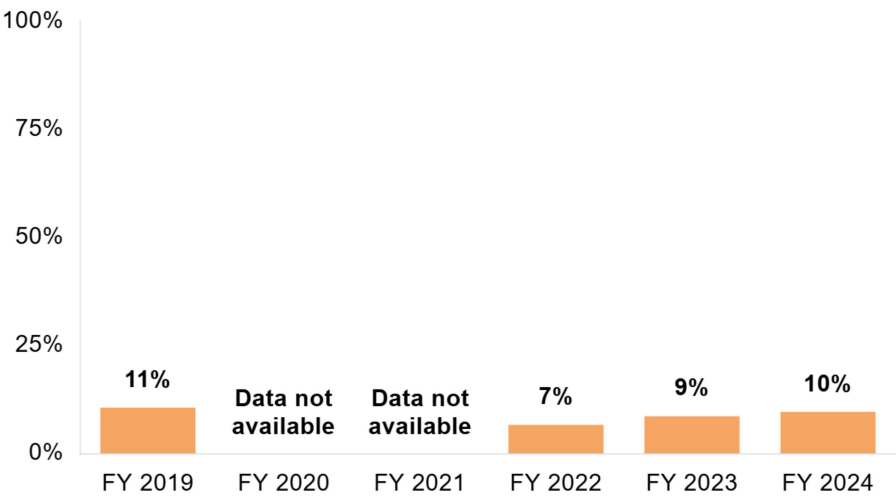|	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	15%	Data not available	Data not available	7%	6%	5%

■ District students who passed the State assessment for Math

View the percentage of District students who passed State assessments for:

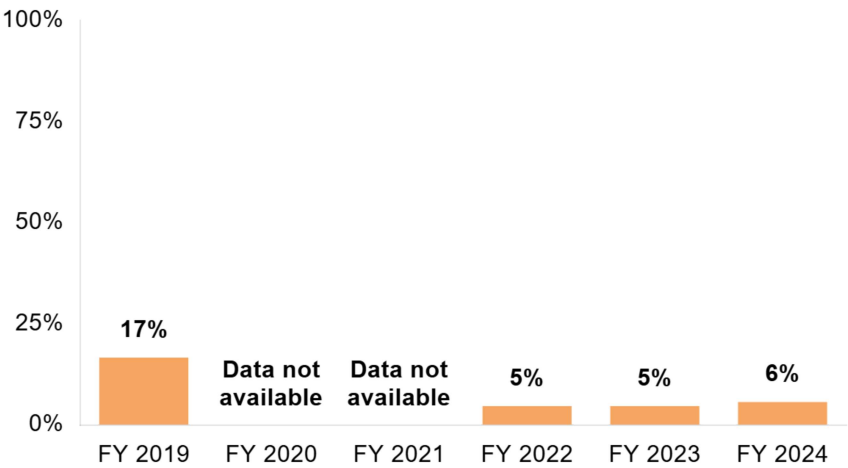English Language Arts ▾

100%

75%

50%

25%

	11%	Data not available	Data not available	7%	9%	10%

0%

FY 2019　FY 2020　FY 2021　FY 2022　FY 2023　FY 2024

🟧 District students who passed the State assessment for English Language Arts

View the percentage of District students who passed State assessments for:

Science ▾

100%

75%

50%

25%

	17%	Data not available	Data not available	5%	5%	6%

0%

FY 2019　FY 2020　FY 2021　FY 2022　FY 2023　FY 2024

🟧 District students who passed the State assessment for Science