

WHERE DO MANCHESTER SCHOOLS STAND IN 2019?

Improving public understanding of the challenges facing Manchester's children should be a priority for the city's leaders. The New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies (NHCPPS) wrote in *Manchester's Education Benchmarks: Using data to map a pathway to success, September 2014*. "The future of Manchester's school system has implications for every aspect of the city's life: economic vitality, civic life, health and well-being of its residents, and beyond. More broadly, Manchester's schools are a vital piece of the statewide education system. The question now facing district leaders is how to harness the strengths of the district's changing demographics, while adopting new policies to address the challenges the schools are still facing to provide the education Manchester students deserve."

	State	Manchester
Free/reduced lunch	26%	58%
Non-white student population	16%	40%
Average class size grades 1 & 2	16.2	20.8
Average class size grades 3 & 4	17.7	23.6
Average class size grades 5 to 8	16.2	24.5
Per pupil spending	\$15,865	\$12,024

*Source: NH Dept of Ed

- **Manchester is the largest school district in the state with 13,476 students.**
- **There is great variation in the low-income student population from school to school.**
 - In 2017-18, the share of students eligible for free/reduced meals last year ranged from 93 percent at Beech Street Elementary School to 23 at Green Acres Elementary School.
- **The student body has been growing more diverse in terms of racial and ethnic composition.**
 - In 2016-17 the percent of students that were identified as white was 60 percent. Forty percent of students are non-white, including African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American or multi-racial. The student diversity in the city has consistently increased over the years.
- **Class size in Manchester averages are significantly higher than the state averages.**
 - Discrepancies also exist among the schools. Largest class sizes were reported in grades 1 & 2 as 27, grades 3 & 4 as 29, and grades 5 through 8 as 30.
- **Manchester's ability to raise money for education is not keeping pace with the rest of the state.**
 - Most of the past decade, Manchester's ability to raise money for public schools has not kept pace with the rest of the state, with less taxable property available on a per-pupil basis from year to year.
- **Over the past decade, Manchester's per-pupil spending has been among the lowest in the state.**
 - In the 2012-13 school year, Manchester spent about \$10,400 per pupil, the fifth lowest figure in the state, and roughly \$3,100 lower than the statewide per-pupil amount. In 2017-2018, Manchester spent \$12,024 per pupil, that was \$3,841 lower than the state average of \$15,865. If Manchester spent just the state average, the school budget would rise by XX, from <current budget> to <current budget + XX>.
- **Now Manchester spends the lowest in the state per pupil.**

HELP GIVE MANCHESTER STUDENTS THE SCHOOLS THEY DESERVE!

