

Where does Rochester City School District funding come from?

Most Money Comes from New York State

The Rochester City School District gets most of its funding (76%) from the state. Rochester, NY has the third highest poverty rate (33.1%) among big cities in the United States. Poor cities like Rochester collect very little in taxes and need more support from the state to fund schools.

Local Funding: “Maintenance of Effort”

The 4 biggest cities in the state—Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers—must maintain the same education spending. The law (2007) is called the maintenance of effort. The amount for Rochester is \$119.1 million.

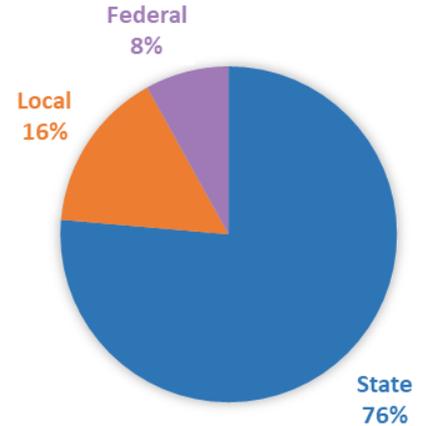
- As costs rise this amount becomes a smaller part of the budget every year.
- The City of Rochester may increase funding to RCSD, but it cannot give less than \$119.1 million without a change in state law.

Federal Government’s Role is Small

The federal government spends very little money on public education, only 8% of RCSD’s funding. That number is actually high compared to most school districts because the federal government targets money to poor communities, and children with particular hardships or needs like homelessness or special education.

At A Glance

RCSD SOURCES OF REVENUE 2019-2020



RCSD Funding Sources 2019-2020

Source	Aid	Grants	Food Service	Other	Savings	Total	Percent
State	\$650,338,042	\$60,465,339	\$600,000			\$711,403,381	76%
Local	\$119,100,000	\$6,606,306	\$200,000	\$11,033,773	\$8,000,000	\$144,940,079	16%
Federal	\$2,100,000	\$48,955,615	\$23,900,000			\$74,955,615	8%
Total	\$771,538,042	\$116,027,260	\$24,700,000	\$11,033,773	\$8,000,000	\$931,299,075	
Percent	83%	12%	3%	1%	1%		

How Do I Advocate for More Money?

Only the City of Rochester or the State of New York can increase funding for RCSD. The Board of Education has no authority to raise taxes or increase the amount of money RCSD receives. The best place to advocate for education funding is with your local representatives in the state assembly and senate. You can find out who represents you here: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/> and here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

To advocate for more local spending on public schools you can speak to City Council and the Mayor. Politicians care most about being elected, so make sure you are registered to vote and participate in every election: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/etc/voter/>

Find out more...

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