Lander County School District

Supplement not Supplant Methodology 2017-2018

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School | Students (based on Oct count) | Expenditures \* | Per student |  |
| Battle Mountain Elementary School | 513 | $2,354,697 | $4,590 |  |
| Eleanor Lemaire Junior High School | 214 | $1,024,691 | $4,788 |  |
| Battle Mountain High School | 281 | $2,044,929 | $7,277\*\* |  |
| Austin Combined School | 19 | $185,883 | $9,783 |  |

\*Funds represented in this column include those spent on instruction, instructional support, and special education at each school site.

\*\* This number does include expenditures associated with starting an expanded CTE program at the high school. These numbers could not be excluded since this course is open to all students.

Rationale

Lander County School District is a small, remote district.  We fund our schools on a centralized basis, meaning, we allocate FTEs (full time equivalent teacher) to schools to fill positions but we do not discriminate among schools as to whether they hire less expensive (new) teachers or more expensive (veteran, master's degrees, etc.) teachers.  Because of this centralized practice, it will not be uncommon to have one school showing a higher 'per pupil' budget while a different school might be lower.  Other differences are particular to certain schools.

The Austin school is a remote, necessarily existent, small school (fewer than 10 students).  While this may appear to be an unfair allocation, it is simply an unavoidable reality - there is benefit to the scaling of students and a small school such as this will always be more expensive when state in 'per pupil' terms.  The high school is another example of circumstances that require exceptional consideration.  In a small community such as ours, there is very little opportunity for students to pursue 'specialty' programs.  One example of this is our metals program.  The economic mainstay of this community includes the surrounding gold mines.  They are very supportive of the district and the district has a great partnership with them.  One of these responsibilities includes preparing students for potential careers in the community.  The welding program requires a full time teacher (no one will do this job as only part-time).  Because the student interest varies from year to year, the enrollment in the program fluctuates.  It is impossible to shut down the program one year because of low enrollment and simply start it up the next year because there is greater student interest.  In addition to this, there are safety concerns in the welding shop.  This limits the number of students a teacher can safely oversee.  It is entirely possible that a welding class in a given year might have 5-7 students.  Other classes are more full but they are rarely enrolled beyond 15.

Another example at the high school is the health sciences program.  As the state pushes for more and more 'career outcome' programs, we have added courses such as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).  Any time you're building a new program, you are subject to small numbers to begin with.  Also, the enrollment of the school limits how many students can choose a given specialty.  There have been times when the EMT or CNA classes have had enrollments of 2-3.  Again, this is a community value that partners with our hospital in town and prepares students for careers in the medical industry well beyond Lander County.  Other courses that frequently have low numbers (but are necessary to maintain) include Trigonometry, Calculus, Foreign Language, Veterinary Science, Greenhouse/Horticulture, etc.  While the class sizes in the elementary and junior high schools consistently vary around 25 students it is simply impossible to maintain the same ratio in a small, yet comprehensive, high school.  For these reasons, the 'per student' expenditures will vary between schools.