

Summary

NEW YORK STATE

New York spends more than any other state or country – \$30,000 per student.

New York spends twice as much as the US average, and third more than Massachusetts, which tops the charts in education achievement.

In Grade 4 Reading, New York's schools perform at the US average and slightly below states like Mississippi and Louisiana.

New York's schools score below the US average in Grade 4 Mathematics falling behind states such as Utah, North Dakota, or Indiana, which spend 2-3 times less than New York on educating a single K-12 student.

K-12 SOS is a pilot project of the Empire Center to inform parents, politicians, and decision-makers about the state of K-12 education in New York State.

All data used in this report can be found in our K-12 SOS interactive database [here](#).

ALBANY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Albany City SD performs at half of the New York average.

In mathematics, Albany City SD scores significantly below the New York state average, with 26% of students achieving proficiency compared to the state average of 52%.

In English Language Arts (ELA) Albany performs slightly better, with an average proficiency rate of 28%, compared to the New York state average of 48%.

Out of 731 school districts in New York state, Albany City SD ranks poorly: 626th in mathematics and 580th in ELA.

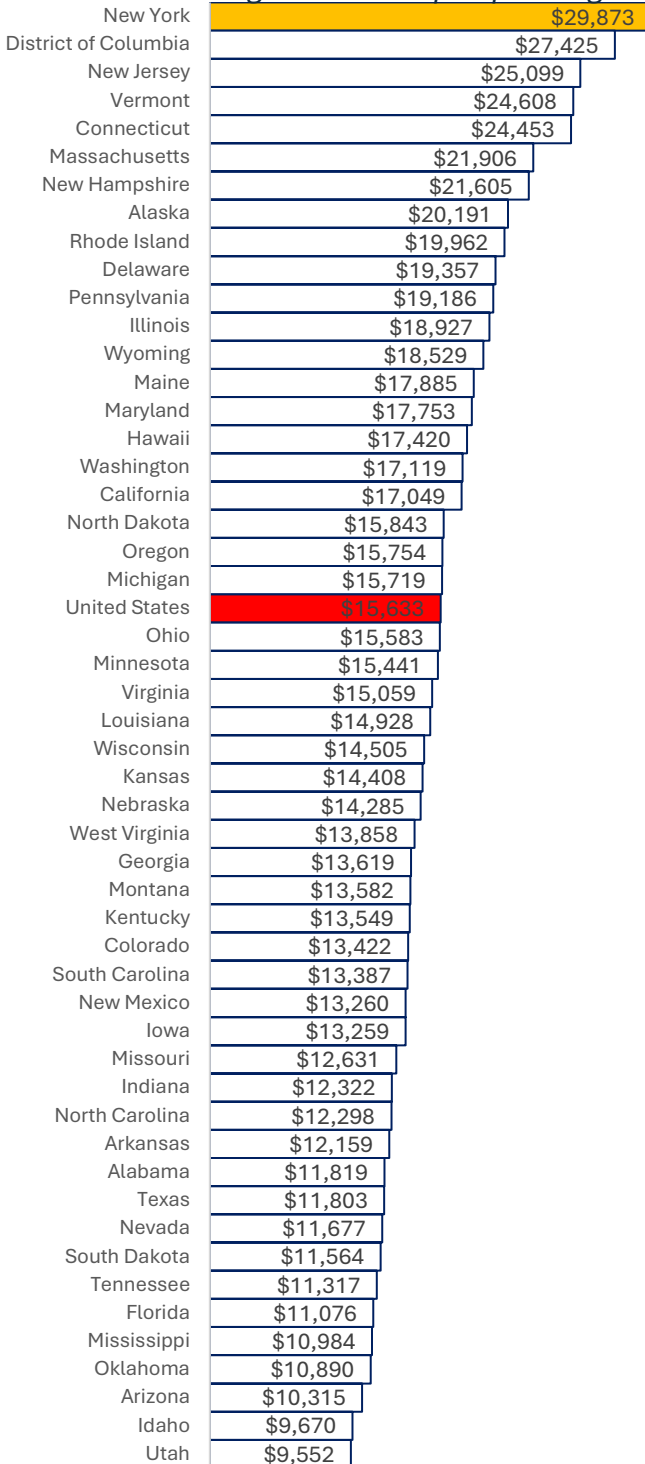
The school district spends \$28,088 per pupil per year and ranks 490th out of 731.

When compared to all school districts in the State of New York, Albany City SD falls into the lower achievement–lower spending category.

Most schools in the Albany City School District perform below the New York average in ELA and Mathematics. Only three schools have proficiency rates greater than the state average in ELA, and only four in Mathematics.

New York State spends \$30,000 - the most in the country and the world - to educate one student

Figure 1. Per Pupil Spending



New York State spends more than any other state, \$30,000 per student. This is also more than any other country in the world.

New York spends twice as much as the US average, and about a quarter more than Massachusetts, which holds the top spot for K-12 education performance.

This data represents the year 2022-2023. Based on the latest preliminary data, currently it is approaching \$35,000 per pupil.

Between 2012 and 2022, New York’s spending on education increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000, double the pace of inflation.

Moreover, enrollment is dropping. Enrollment in New York public schools in 2022-2023 sank to its lowest level from the early 1950s to 2.24 million in 2024-25.

NEW YORK STATE SCORES BELOW US AVERAGE IN GRADE 4 MATHEMATICS

Based on the *Nation's Report Card*, New York's schools score below US average in Grade 4 Mathematics in average scores and proficiency achievement levels. For Grade 8, the scores and proficiency rates also hover around the US average.

Notably several states leading the Grade 4 mathematics ranking, e.g., Utah, North Dakota or Indiana spend 2-3 times less on educating a single K-12 student.

Note that proficiency thresholds used to compare proficiency levels among states are different than proficiency levels used later in this report when comparing performance among New York's school districts.

Figure 2. Grade 4 Mathematics Score and Proficiency

-246	Massachusetts	51%
	Wyoming	
	Utah	
	Florida	
	Minnesota	45%
	New Jersey	
	Indiana	
	North Dakota	
	Texas	
	Ohio	
	New Hampshire	
-240	South Dakota	42%
	Hawaii	
	Wisconsin	
	Connecticut	
	Tennessee	
	Colorado	
	Pennsylvania	
	North Carolina	
	Idaho	
	Montana	
	Virginia	
	South Carolina	
	Nebraska	
	Washington	
	Kansas	40%
-237	United States	39%
	Iowa	
	Kentucky	
	Rhode Island	
	Illinois	
	Mississippi	
	Georgia	
	Maryland	
	Michigan	
	Alabama	
-234	New York	37%
	Missouri	
	Nevada	
	Vermont	
	Delaware	35%
	California	
	Louisiana	
	Arizona	
	Maine	
	Oklahoma	
	Arkansas	31%
	West Virginia	
	Oregon	
	Alaska	
-224	New Mexico	23%

Figure 3. Grade 4 Reading scores and Proficiency

-225	Massachusetts	40%
	New Jersey	
	Utah	
	New Hampshire	
	Connecticut	
	Wyoming	
	Colorado	
	Indiana	
-216	Maryland	34%
	Florida	
	Pennsylvania	
	Kentucky	
-216	Rhode Island	33%
	South Carolina	
	Ohio	
	Washington	
-219	Mississippi	32%
	Montana	
	Idaho	
	Louisiana	
	Tennessee	
	Hawaii	
	Wisconsin	
-215	New York	31%
	Virginia	
	Minnesota	
-214	United States	30%
	Vermont	
	Georgia	
	Illinois	
	North Carolina	
	Nevada	
	Iowa	
-216	North Dakota	29%
	California	
	Kansas	
	Arkansas	
	Alabama	
	South Dakota	
	Nebraska	
-212	Texas	28%
	Missouri	
	Oregon	
	Delaware	
	Arizona	
	Maine	
	West Virginia	
	Michigan	
	Oklahoma	
	Alaska	
-201	New Mexico	20%

NEW YORK STATE SCORES AT US AVERAGE IN GRADE 4 READING

New York’s schools perform at the level of the US average in reading achievement. It performs similarly to Iowa and Tennessee but significantly below Massachusetts, New Jersey, or Mississippi.

In the past decade, Grade 4 Reading scores used to slightly exceed the National average, but it dipped significantly during the COVID epidemic.

Comparable results and dynamics can be observed in Grade 8 Reading proficiency data, with New York scoring close to the US average, with scores starting to dip even before COVID.

Notably, several states leading Grade 4 in reading rankings, e.g., Utah, North Dakota, Indiana, spend 2-3 times less on educating a single K-12 student.

FOCUS: ALBANY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), Albany City SD performs at half of the New York State average.

In Mathematics, Albany City SD achieves an average proficiency of only 26% compared to NY state average of 52%.

In English Language Arts (ELA), Albany performs slightly better, with an average proficiency of 28%, compared to the New York state average of 48%.

The school district spends \$28,088 per pupil per year. Note that due to methodological differences this number cannot be directly compared to estimates in Figures 1, 6, 7, 8.

When compared to all school districts in the New York state, Albany City SD falls into the lower achievement–lower spending category.

Out of 731 school districts in New York state, Albany City SD ranks 626th in mathematics and 580th in ELA. At the same time, Albany ranks 490th in spending.

Important notes on proficiency and spending

Proficiency. NYSED measures Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency differently than NAEP, which makes New York’s proficiency rates higher than NAEP’s comparison among states. According to NAEP, proficiency rates for New York for Math and Reading are 37% and 31%, respectively. Based on NYSED data, it is 52% for Mathematics and 48% for English Language Arts (ELA).

Note that proficiency data used in this chapter is not directly comparable to proficiency data used in the previous chapter when comparing New York State to other states.

Figure 4. English Language Arts proficiency in Albany City SD compared to school districts of comparable size



Figure 5. Mathematics proficiency in Albany City SD compared to school districts of comparable size



SCHOOLS IN THE ALBANY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Most schools in the Albany School District perform below the New York average in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Only three schools have proficiency rates greater than the New York average in English Language Arts (ELA), and only four have proficiency rates at or above average in mathematics.

Even worse, more than half of the schools do not even reach half the New York average in mathematics, with 12 schools having 25% or less students who are proficient in Mathematics. The situation is slightly better in English Language Arts (ELA), where 7 schools in Albany City SD fell at or below a 25% proficiency rate.

Determining why certain schools perform better than others is beyond the scope of this research. School size, proportion of economically disadvantaged students, per pupil spending, and school type likely play a role in schools' overall performance.

Figure 6. Performance of Albany City SD schools

School	Per Pupil Expenditure	Total Pupils	ELA	Math	Proportion of Economically Disadvantaged Students
Albany Leadership Charter School-Girls	N/A	N/A	24%	11%	89%
Albany School of Humanities	\$18,515	356	52%	61%	64%
Arbor Hill Elementary School	\$23,792	264	7%	22%	90%
Brighter Choice Charter School-Boys	\$16,916	244	37%	53%	95%
Brighter Choice Charter School-Girls	\$13,056	327	51%	45%	98%
Delaware Community School	\$12,205	289	11%	12%	84%
Eagle Point Elementary School	\$16,434	275	33%	50%	62%
Giffen Memorial Elementary School	\$20,260	404	11%	14%	91%
Green Tech High Charter School	\$17,250	429	36%	20%	94%
Henry Johnson Charter School	\$12,536	356	45%	52%	55%
Kipp Albany Community Charter School	\$19,110	670	26%	21%	86%
KIPP Tech Valley Charter School	\$17,230	908	31%	24%	82%
Montessori Magnet School	\$15,425	312	49%	70%	36%
Myers Middle School	\$18,708	642	25%	19%	73%
New Scotland Elementary School	\$15,143	472	45%	44%	48%
North Albany Academy Middle School	\$18,413	436	21%	11%	83%
P J Schuyler Achievement Academy	\$13,919	287	15%	17%	88%
Pine Hills Elementary School	\$16,763	333	29%	25%	76%
Sheridan Prep Academy	\$19,321	287	16%	22%	89%
Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology	\$22,530	250	34%	38%	76%
William S Hackett Middle School	\$16,018	672	37%	24%	69%

Figure 7. English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency in Albany City SD

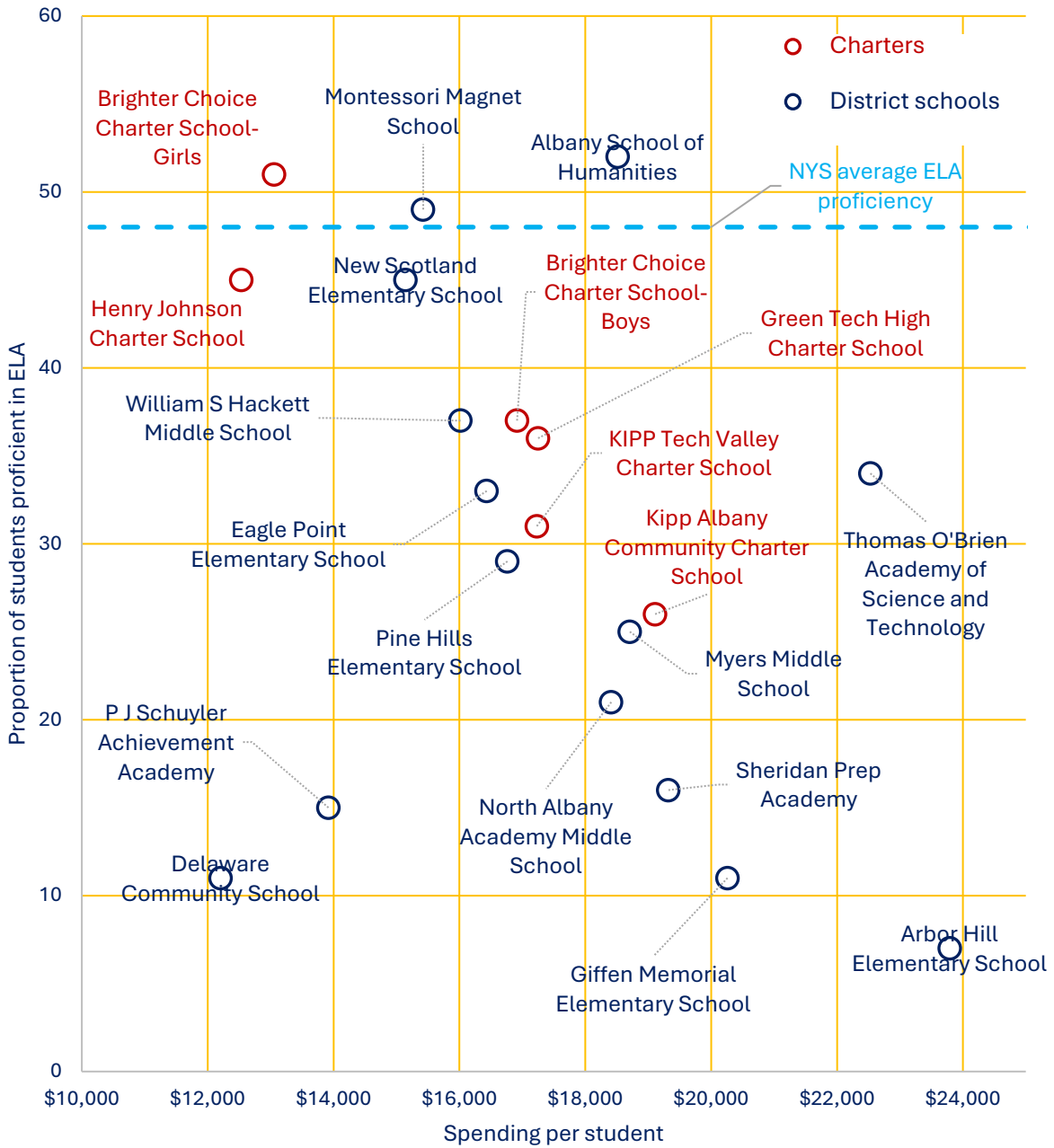
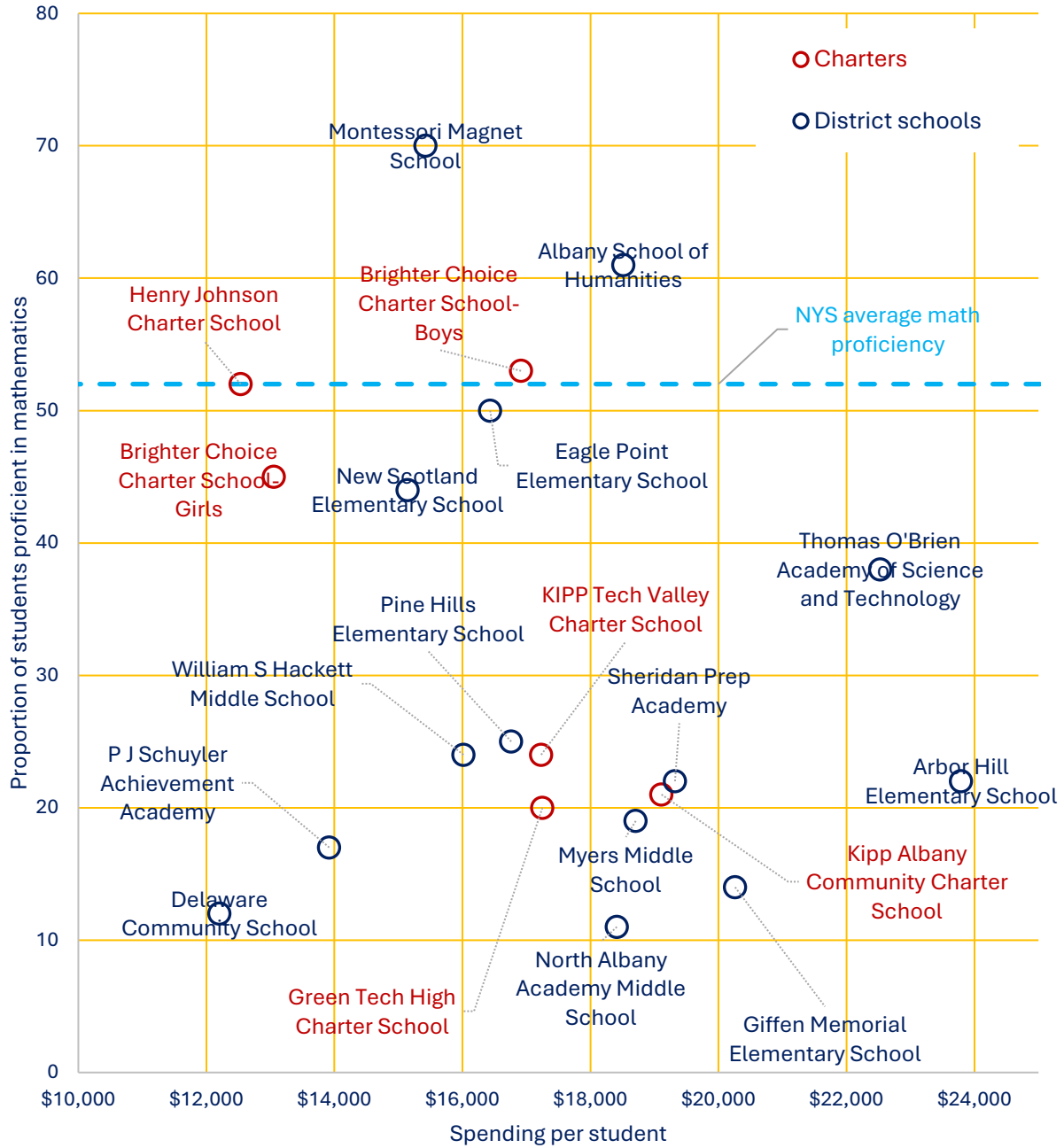


Figure 8. Mathematics proficiency in Albany City SD



NOTES, DATA SOURCES AND CLARIFICATIONS

Data Sources:

Figure 1: NYSED School Data Fiscal Profiles: Per Pupil Expenditure Data for each School District. (2022-23) Census: Per Pupil Expenditure for each State. (2022-23).

Figures 2, 3: NAEP Report Card: 2024 Grade 4 Proficiency rates for state level comparison.

Figures 4, 5. NYSED School Report Card: The Proficiency rates (For School Districts and Schools) and Per Pupil Expenditures (for Schools) have been collected from the 2022-23 NYSED School Report Card. Although NYSED has published the 2023-24 proficiency rates, they are yet to publish the per pupil expenditure data.

Figure 6. NYSED IRS Enrollment Data (2023-24): Enrollment data for Economically Disadvantaged students

Data Notes:

The Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE) at a school district level includes administrative costs for the operations of the school district. These costs are not included for the school's PPE. So, PPE at a school level is comparatively lower than the school district level. Schools cannot be compared to school districts for the PPE data.

Per pupil spending data in Figure 1 cannot be directly compared to per pupil spending data in Figures 4 and 5, and per pupil spending data in Figures 1, 4, 5 cannot be directly compared to per pupil spending data in figures 6, 7 and 8.