

Charter View

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ASPIRA DELAWARE

Local Funding (Charter Bill)

Charter Schools receive their local school district funding (Charter Bill) based on a school district's **previous** year's total local operating expenditures, rather than a percentage of revenue, so it's extremely difficult to project the actual funding a charter school will receive from one year to the next.

The funding from each "choice" student's residing district follows the student, and a charter school may pull students from multiple districts. As an example, our enrollment last school year at ASPIRA Academy (two campuses = 1,444 students / East Campus (K-8) = 1,091 students and West Campus (9-12) = 353 students) was comprised of students from eight school districts, but 60% of those students were from one district, 23% from another and 14% from another, thus 97% of our enrollment came from three school districts. \$8,141,721 (29%) of our budgeted revenue was comprised of local school district funding.

Local Funding (Charter Bill)

The rate of funding for choice (charter) students from each school district varies each year.

- Example: In FY 2021, one school district had a 12.68% decrease in its total local operating expenditures – that equated to a decrease of **\$489,705** in ASPIRA Academy’s local school district revenue in FY 2022.
- Looking at the FY 2025 rate of funding for charters, 10 out of 16 school districts experienced a decrease in total local operating expenditures in FY 2024, thus a decrease in local funding (revenue) for charter schools.
- Most of the state’s public charter schools reside in New Castle County, and four of six NCC (including Smyrna – split between two counties) school districts experienced a decrease in total local operating expenses.

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit	Total Local Operating Expenditures (Local Revenue Charters Receive) per Unit Percentage		Year	School District
	Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	per Unit Percentage		
\$33,106.55	1.77%		2019	Appoquinimink School District
\$32,256.13	-2.57%		2020	Appoquinimink School District
\$35,758.50	10.86%		2021	Appoquinimink School District
\$37,692.34	5.41%		2022	Appoquinimink School District
\$42,455.03	12.64%		2023	Appoquinimink School District
\$44,373.22	4.52%		2024	Appoquinimink School District
\$81,515.83	6.06%		2019	Brandywine School District
\$84,435.87	3.58%		2020	Brandywine School District
\$80,319.84	-4.87%		2021	Brandywine School District
\$84,069.38	4.67%		2022	Brandywine School District
\$76,407.54	-9.11%		2023	Brandywine School District
\$74,790.08	-2.12%		2024	Brandywine School District
\$21,491.65	-0.52%		2019	Caesar Rodney School District
\$23,884.86	11.14%		2020	Caesar Rodney School District
\$25,429.56	6.47%		2021	Caesar Rodney School District
\$30,455.09	19.76%		2022	Caesar Rodney School District
\$32,651.75	7.21%		2023	Caesar Rodney School District
\$20,747.99	-36.46%		2024	Caesar Rodney School District
\$51,915.08	-10.56%		2019	Cape Henlopen School District
\$51,263.32	-1.26%		2020	Cape Henlopen School District
\$51,112.97	-0.29%		2021	Cape Henlopen School District
\$53,526.68	4.72%		2022	Cape Henlopen School District
\$54,821.69	2.42%		2023	Cape Henlopen School District
\$49,847.30	-9.07%		2024	Cape Henlopen School District

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit	Total Local Operating Expenditures (Local Revenue Charters Receive) per Unit Percentage		Year	School District
	Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	Percentage		
\$22,743.81	8.01%		2019	Capital School District
\$19,533.48	-14.12%		2020	Capital School District
\$18,512.48	-5.23%		2021	Capital School District
\$25,252.37	36.41%		2022	Capital School District
\$23,677.00	-6.24%		2023	Capital School District
\$22,317.96	-5.74%		2024	Capital School District
\$72,238.80	-2.02%		2019	Christina School District
\$77,866.46	7.79%		2020	Christina School District
\$67,993.38	-12.68%		2021	Christina School District
\$72,547.05	6.70%		2022	Christina School District
\$79,626.91	9.76%		2023	Christina School District
\$86,537.41	8.68%		2024	Christina School District
\$49,628.63	17.26%		2019	Colonial School District
\$52,763.56	6.32%		2020	Colonial School District
\$55,798.02	5.75%		2021	Colonial School District
\$70,112.87	25.65%		2022	Colonial School District
\$76,296.10	8.82%		2023	Colonial School District
\$71,451.83	-6.35%		2024	Colonial School District
\$11,564.41	21.66%		2019	Delmar School District
\$12,552.95	8.55%		2020	Delmar School District
\$13,454.55	7.18%		2021	Delmar School District
\$12,520.21	-6.94%		2022	Delmar School District
\$13,586.41	8.52%		2023	Delmar School District
\$14,323.53	5.43%		2024	Delmar School District

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit

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	Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	per Unit Percentage		
\$46,008.51	9.42%		2019	Indian River School District
\$48,614.91	5.67%		2020	Indian River School District
\$50,169.63	3.20%		2021	Indian River School District
\$56,629.72	12.88%		2022	Indian River School District
\$62,650.93	10.63%		2023	Indian River School District
\$59,408.09	-5.18%		2024	Indian River School District
\$21,131.66	11.04%		2019	Lake Forest School District
\$22,388.81	5.95%		2020	Lake Forest School District
\$22,365.23	-0.11%		2021	Lake Forest School District
\$21,535.68	-3.71%		2022	Lake Forest School District
\$20,829.71	-3.28%		2023	Lake Forest School District
\$21,470.48	3.08%		2024	Lake Forest School District
\$11,290.91	18.76%		2019	Laurel School District
\$11,173.11	-1.04%		2020	Laurel School District
\$12,209.35	9.27%		2021	Laurel School District
\$14,507.19	18.82%		2022	Laurel School District
\$10,033.70	-30.84%		2023	Laurel School District
\$13,601.98	35.56%		2024	Laurel School District
\$17,910.61	4.62%		2019	Milford School District
\$19,311.92	7.82%		2020	Milford School District
\$17,938.10	-7.11%		2021	Milford School District
\$20,880.95	16.41%		2022	Milford School District
\$22,800.67	9.19%		2023	Milford School District
\$22,344.28	-2.00%		2024	Milford School District

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit

Total Local Operating Expenditures per Unit	Total Local Operating Expenditures (Local Revenue Charters Receive) per Unit Percentage Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	School District
\$70,348.97	3.21%	2019 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$71,493.75	1.63%	2020 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$71,938.78	0.62%	2021 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$71,423.80	-0.72%	2022 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$78,185.91	9.47%	2023 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$77,134.41	-1.34%	2024 Red Clay Consolidated School District
\$19,069.82	-3.04%	2019 Seaford School District
\$17,198.90	-9.81%	2020 Seaford School District
\$19,481.58	13.27%	2021 Seaford School District
\$20,921.51	7.39%	2022 Seaford School District
\$15,362.45	-26.57%	2023 Seaford School District
\$20,045.37	30.48%	2024 Seaford School District
\$18,040.44	-2.03%	2019 Smyrna School District
\$19,503.61	8.11%	2020 Smyrna School District
\$18,337.44	-5.98%	2021 Smyrna School District
\$25,658.27	39.92%	2022 Smyrna School District
\$23,758.70	-7.40%	2023 Smyrna School District
\$22,650.72	-4.66%	2024 Smyrna School District
\$17,899.87	3.26%	2019 Woodbridge School District
\$21,014.14	17.40%	2021 Woodbridge School District
\$20,598.78	-1.98%	2022 Woodbridge School District
\$23,597.54	14.56%	2023 Woodbridge School District
\$20,533.98	-12.98%	2024 Woodbridge School District

Challenges with Local Funding Model

Inability for charter schools to accurately predict approximately 30% of our revenue.

- We operate on a Preliminary Operating Budget from July – December and then a Final Operating Budget from January – June.

65%-75% of our total revenue is applied to salary costs on an annual basis, so we are reliant on this funding since about 30% of a teacher's salary is funded by local school district funding.

We base staffing on the State Unit Count; however, without knowing if our local share of funding will increase or decrease, it is difficult to hire staffing to correlate with an increase in the Unit Count.

Fixed costs; e.g., mortgage & school building leases (6-8% of operating budget – charters do not receive major capital funding), must be paid regardless of increase or decrease in our overall funding

Operating Budgets typically increase from year to year