State Funding for P-12 Education

Kentucky public education from preschool through high school costs around $7 billion per year, with $4 billion of that coming from the state General Fund for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

HOW IS STATE EDUCATION FUNDING USED?

The graph to the right gives the big picture for the 2014-15 school year, with information on 2013-14 included to give a sense of recent changes. SEEK funding is nearly two-thirds of the total, with another quarter of the funding paying for educators' health and retirement benefits. Funding for school facilities, major targeted programs, and other costs make up the remainder.

HOW IS SEEK FUNDING USED?

SEEK is Kentucky's main formula for funding public education, providing dollars that districts can use for any educational need. For more information on SEEK, see the separate Kentucky EdGuide on SEEK Funding at www.prichardcommittee.org.

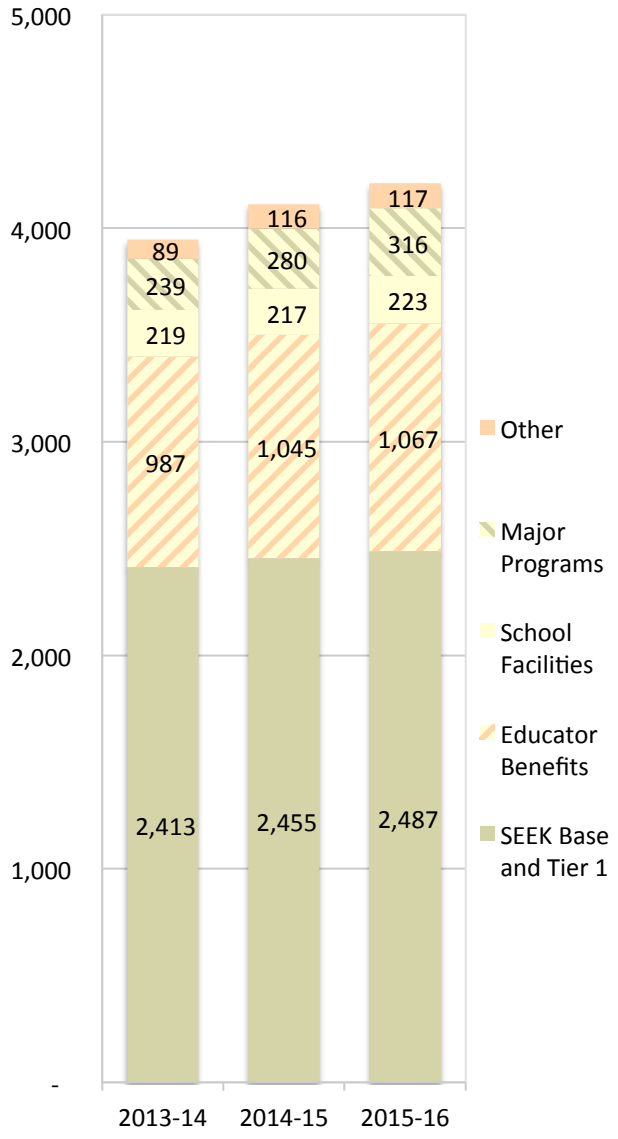
WHAT EDUCATOR BENEFITS DOES THE STATE FUND?

For all Kentucky school districts, Kentucky pays the employer share of health insurance costs for all employees and the employer share of retirement costs for all certified employees (meaning teachers, principals, and others whose jobs require state certificates). Those benefits are an important part of the compensation packages for those who do the main work of educating Kentucky's students.

HOW DOES THE STATE CONTRIBUTE TO THE COSTS OF BUILDING AND RENOVATING SCHOOL FACILITIES?

Part of the money (around $108 million in 2015-16) goes to the School Facilities Construction Commission, a state agency that supports school district construction and major renovations by issuing bonds. The other dollars go to school districts to be set aside for facilities work. To receive the state dollars, districts must also make a local effort by setting aside a portion of their local tax revenue to meet facilities needs.

KENTUCKY'S EDUCATION BUDGET (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



LEARNING MORE

To see the amounts allocated to a particular school district, visit education.ky.gov and search for "SEEK" and for "state grants"

For added details on how SEEK dollars are distributed, see the Kentucky EdGuide on the SEEK Formula at www.prichardcommittee.org.

WHAT MAJOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS RECEIVE STATE FUNDING?

Kentucky makes grants to school districts for a number of targeted programs, subject to rules about how each grant can be used. That sort of funding is widely called "categorical funding." Kentucky also funds some schools directly, including a set of state-run area technical centers, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf, as well as the Kentucky Educational Consortium for State Agency Children. Here's a summary of the funding for each program costing $5 million or more:

Major Program	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Education Technology	$16.4	$19.3	$23.0
Extended School Services	$12.3	$19.1	$25.5
Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Program	$52.1	$52.1	$52.1
Gifted and Talented	$6.6	$6.6	$6.6
Instructional Resources (Textbooks)	0	$16.7	$16.7
Kentucky School for the Blind	$6.0	$6.5	$6.7
Kentucky School for the Deaf	$9.6	$9.6	$9.8
Mathematics Achievement Fund	$5.4	$5.4	$5.4
Preschool	$71.3	$71.3	$90.1
Professional Development	$5.4	$8.8	$11.9
Read to Achieve	$17.9	$17.0	$17.0
Safe Schools	$4.2	$7.3	$10.4
State Agency Children	$9.6	$10.1	$10.1
Vocational Education (State Operated Programs)	$22.6	$22.9	$22.9
Total	$239.4	$273	$308

(Note: in 2013-14, $11 million was designated in the state budget to fund locally-operated vocational programs. In the budgets for 2014-15 and 2015-16, money for those programs is included in the Department budget but the legislation does not identify a specific amount.)

HOW ARE THE OTHER DOLLARS BUDGETED FOR EDUCATION USED?

Those funds pay for the work of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board, maintain an advanced statewide technology network used by all districts, and fund a number of smaller programs and grants.

This and other Kentucky EdGuides are available at www.prichardcommittee.org as tools for engaging students, parents, teachers, and other Kentucky public education stakeholders. © 2015 by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence