

Arizona Auditor General

Arizona School District Spending Report

Fiscal Year 2022

This document provides a text-based representation of the numbers and other information presented in the graphics on Gila Bend Unified School District's summary results. All data is for fiscal year 2022 unless otherwise noted.

District demographic information

District name: Gila Bend Unified School District

County: Maricopa

Operational peer group: 7

Transportation peer group: 7

Achievement peer group: 7

Legislative district(s): 23 and 25

Location: Rural

Number of schools: 2

Students attending: 454

Size: Small

5-year change in students attending: 16% increase

Special education population: 15%

English learner population: NR

Poverty rate for fiscal year 2021: 38%

Graduation rate for fiscal year 2021: 86%

District's spending by operational area

Every year, school districts must decide where to allocate their resources. This pie chart shows how Gila Bend Unified School District spent its funding by operational area, including the percentage it spent in the classroom and specifically on instruction.

We categorize districts with certain similar qualities into peer groups in order to help create meaningful comparisons across districts. Gila Bend Unified School District's peer group had an average instructional spending percentage of 47.5%. This number can help provide context for Gila Bend Unified School District's own instructional spending percentage.

Pie chart showing district spending by operational area

Classroom spending, which includes instruction, student support, and instruction support spending: 53.4%

Instruction: 37.9%

Student support: 11.8%

Instruction support: 3.7%

Nonclassroom spending, which includes administration, plant operations, food service, and transportation spending: 46.6%

Administration: 21.2%

Plant operations: 18.0%

Food service: 6.2%

Transportation: 1.2%

Instructional spending percentage highlights (fiscal years 2001-2022)

We have monitored instructional spending since fiscal year 2001. Below are highlights from Gila Bend Unified School District's instructional spending trend showing the most recent year-to-year change and the years it spent its highest and lowest percentages on instruction. Reviewing these instructional spending percentage highlights can provide insight into short-term (year-to-year comparison) and long-term (highest and lowest comparison) trends of a district's allocation of monies to instruction. Depending on how much a district spends in total, even small changes in a district's percentage spent on instruction can equate to large changes in the actual dollars the district spent.

List of the District's instructional spending percentage for the 2 most recent fiscal years, as well as its highest and lowest instructional spending percentages between fiscal years 2001 and 2022

Fiscal year 2021 instructional spending percentage: 42.7%

Fiscal year 2022 instructional spending percentage: 37.9%

Fiscal year of highest instructional spending percentage: 2005

Highest instructional spending percentage: 57.3%

Fiscal year of lowest instructional spending percentage: 2022

Lowest instructional spending percentage: 37.9%

Why monitor school district spending?

Most school district funding is based on the number of students attending, and districts can choose how to spend most funding, so every decision a school district makes to spend on one operational area directly impacts its ability to spend on another. For example, if a district has higher spending in food service, it will have fewer dollars to spend on instruction.

The bar chart below, "Percentage point change in spending by area," illustrates how Gila Bend Unified School District's spending by area has changed from the prior year and 5 years ago.

To put the spending percentages in context, it also can be helpful to review a district's per student spending in dollars. For example, 2 districts may spend the same percentage of their resources on instruction, but on a per student basis, 1 district may spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars more than the other.

Bar chart showing the percentage point change in spending by area (fiscal year 2017 versus fiscal year 2022)

Change in classroom spending, which includes instruction, student support, and instruction support: 2.1%

Instruction: -3.3%

Student support: 5.5%
Instruction support: -0.1%
Change in nonclassroom spending, which includes administration, plant operations, food service, and transportation: -2.1%
Administration: 2.3%
Plant operations: -2.9%
Food service: 0.9%
Transportation: -2.4%

Bar chart showing the percentage point change in spending by area (fiscal year 2021 versus fiscal year 2022)

Change in classroom spending, which includes instruction, student support, and instruction support: 2.8%
Instruction: -4.8%
Student support: 5.7%
Instruction support: 1.9%
Change in nonclassroom spending, which includes administration, plant operations, food service, and transportation: -2.8%
Administration: -4.7%
Plant operations: 1.3%
Food service: 1.0%
Transportation: -0.4%

Table showing per student spending by area

Operational spending

Fiscal year 2021 district instruction per student spending: \$5,398
Fiscal year 2022 district instruction per student spending: \$4,456
One year change in district instruction per student spending: -\$942
Fiscal year 2022 peer average instruction per student spending: \$6,405
Difference from peer average for district instruction per student spending: -\$1,949
Fiscal year 2022 State average instruction per student spending: \$5,846
Difference from State average for district instruction per student spending: -\$1,390
Fiscal year 2021 district student support per student spending: \$773
Fiscal year 2022 district student support per student spending: \$1,387
One year change in district student support per student spending: \$614
Fiscal year 2022 peer average student support per student spending: \$942
Difference from peer average for district student support per student spending: \$445
Fiscal year 2022 State average student support per student spending: \$986
Difference from State average for district student support per student spending: \$401
Fiscal year 2021 district instruction support per student spending: \$222
Fiscal year 2022 district instruction support per student spending: \$431
One year change in district instruction support per student spending: \$209
Fiscal year 2022 peer average instruction support per student spending: \$421
Difference from peer average for district instruction support per student spending: \$10
Fiscal year 2022 State average instruction support per student spending: \$632
Difference from State average for district instruction support per student spending: -\$201

Fiscal year 2021 district administration per student spending: \$3,274
Fiscal year 2022 district administration per student spending: \$2,491
One year change in district administration per student spending: -\$783
Fiscal year 2022 peer average administration per student spending: \$2,050
Difference from peer average for district administration per student spending: \$441
Fiscal year 2022 State average administration per student spending: \$1,088
Difference from State average for district administration per student spending: \$1,403
Fiscal year 2021 district plant operations per student spending: \$2,109
Fiscal year 2022 district plant operations per student spending: \$2,118
One year change in district plant operations per student spending: \$9
Fiscal year 2022 peer average plant operations per student spending: \$2,085
Difference from peer average for district plant operations per student spending: \$33
Fiscal year 2022 State average plant operations per student spending: \$1,209
Difference from State average for district plant operations per student spending: \$909
Fiscal year 2021 district food service per student spending: \$652
Fiscal year 2022 district food service per student spending: \$737
One year change in district food service per student spending: \$85
Fiscal year 2022 peer average food service per student spending: \$621
Difference from peer average for district food service per student spending: \$116
Fiscal year 2022 State average food service per student spending: \$507
Difference from State average for district food service per student spending: \$230
Fiscal year 2021 district transportation per student spending: \$202
Fiscal year 2022 district transportation per student spending: \$139
One year change in district transportation per student spending: -\$63
Fiscal year 2022 peer average transportation per student spending: \$569
Difference from peer average for district transportation per student spending: -\$430
Fiscal year 2022 State average transportation per student spending: \$461
Difference from State average for district transportation per student spending: -\$322
Fiscal year 2021 district total operational per student spending: \$12,630
Fiscal year 2022 district total operational per student spending: \$11,759
One year change in district total operational per student spending: -\$871
Fiscal year 2022 peer average total operational per student spending: \$13,093
Difference from peer average for district total operational per student spending: -\$1,334
Fiscal year 2022 State average total operational per student spending: \$10,729
Difference from State average for district total operational per student spending: \$1,030

Nonoperational spending

Fiscal year 2021 district land and buildings per student spending: \$25,633
Fiscal year 2022 district land and buildings per student spending: \$313
One year change in district land and buildings per student spending: -\$25,320
Fiscal year 2022 peer average land and buildings per student spending: \$1,215
Difference from peer average for district land and buildings per student spending: -\$902
Fiscal year 2022 State average land and buildings per student spending: \$1,373
Difference from State average for district land and buildings per student spending: -\$1,060
Fiscal year 2021 district equipment per student spending: \$2,171
Fiscal year 2022 district equipment per student spending: \$717

One year change in district equipment per student spending: -\$1,454
Fiscal year 2022 peer average equipment per student spending: \$1,166
Difference from peer average for district equipment per student spending: -\$449
Fiscal year 2022 State average equipment per student spending: \$840
Difference from State average for district equipment per student spending: -\$123
Fiscal year 2021 district interest per student spending: \$943
Fiscal year 2022 district interest per student spending: \$1,656
One year change in district interest per student spending: \$713
Fiscal year 2022 peer average interest per student spending: \$247
Difference from peer average for district interest per student spending: \$1,409
Fiscal year 2022 State average interest per student spending: \$309
Difference from State average for district interest per student spending: \$1,347
Fiscal year 2021 district other per student spending: \$461
Fiscal year 2022 district other per student spending: \$638
One year change in district other per student spending: \$177
Fiscal year 2022 peer average other per student spending: \$124
Difference from peer average for district other per student spending: \$514
Fiscal year 2022 State average other per student spending: \$203
Difference from State average for district other per student spending: \$435
Fiscal year 2021 district total nonoperational per student spending: \$29,208
Fiscal year 2022 district total nonoperational per student spending: \$3,324
One year change in district total nonoperational per student spending: -\$25,884
Fiscal year 2022 peer average total nonoperational per student spending: \$2,752
Difference from peer average for district total nonoperational per student spending: \$572
Fiscal year 2022 State average total nonoperational per student spending: \$2,725
Difference from State average for district total nonoperational per student spending: \$599

Spending totals

Fiscal year 2021 district total per student spending: \$41,838
Fiscal year 2022 district total per student spending: \$15,083
One year change in district total per student spending: -\$26,755
Fiscal year 2022 peer average total per student spending: \$15,845
Difference from peer average for district total per student spending: -\$762
Fiscal year 2022 State average total per student spending: \$13,454
Difference from State average for district total per student spending: \$1,629

Operational efficiency measures

Performance measures, such as those shown below, can be used in addition to instructional spending percentage to assess a district's operational efficiency. We have classified the District's spending relative to its peer districts' average as very low, low, comparable, high, very high, or N/A (not available or applicable). High or very high spending when compared to peer averages may signify an opportunity for improved efficiency in that area. A district's data may not be available or applicable if it did not operate a program in that operational area. For example, not all districts operate food service or transportation programs.

Table showing operational efficiency measures relative to peer averages

Operational area—Administration

State average administration spending per student: \$1,088

Peer average administration spending per student: \$2,050

District administration spending per student: \$2,491

District's administration spending per student relative to peer average: Very High

State average students per administrative position: 63

Peer average students per administrative position: 38

District students per administrative position: 38

Operational area—Plant operations

State average plant operations spending per square foot: \$7.21

Peer average plant operations spending per square foot: \$6.34

District plant operations spending per square foot: \$8.50

District's plant operations spending per square foot relative to peer average: Very High

State average square footage per student: 167

Peer average square footage per student: 325

District square footage per student: 249

Operational area—Food service

State average food service spending per meal: \$3.25

Peer average food service spending per meal: \$4.33

District food service spending per meal: \$4.13

District's food service spending per meal relative to peer average: Comparable

State average meals per student: 158

Peer average meals per student: 146

District meals per student: 178

Operational area—Transportation

Transportation performance measures are compared using different peer groups because we have found there are other factors, such as the number of miles a district averages for each rider, that impact transportation spending.

State average transportation spending per mile: \$5.53

Peer average transportation spending per mile: \$4.74

District transportation spending per mile: \$1.12

District's transportation spending per mile relative to peer average: Very Low

State average transportation spending per rider: \$1,945

Peer average transportation spending per rider: \$1,594

District transportation spending per rider: \$289

District's transportation spending per rider relative to peer average: Very Low

Why monitor average teacher salary?

Teacher salaries are one of a school district's most significant costs and have been a topic of high interest in recent years in Arizona. Beginning in fiscal year 2018, the State budget included additional money intended to increase the State's average teacher salary by 20 percent between fiscal years 2017

and 2021. The bar chart below shows how Gila Bend Unified School District's average teacher salary changed during this time and immediately after the plan ended, as well as how it compared to the State average. Further, we have broken down what portion of the District's average teacher salary was from Classroom Site fund (CSF) monies.

We have also included a table that displays other student- and teacher-related measures that may provide additional context for how Gila Bend Unified School District's average teacher salary may have changed. For instance, changes in a district's teacher population can impact the district's average teacher salary.

Bar chart and table showing average teacher salary and other measures

Fiscal year 2017 district average teacher salary: \$37,012
Fiscal year 2018 district average teacher salary: \$48,098
Fiscal year 2019 district average teacher salary: \$48,384
Fiscal year 2020 district average teacher salary: \$49,548
Fiscal year 2021 district average teacher salary: \$50,811
Fiscal year 2022 district average teacher salary: \$54,519
Fiscal year 2017 district amount from CSF: \$6,556
Fiscal year 2018 district amount from CSF: \$6,998
Fiscal year 2019 district amount from CSF: \$6,780
Fiscal year 2020 district amount from CSF: \$7,349
Fiscal year 2021 district amount from CSF: \$12,934
Fiscal year 2022 district amount from CSF: \$8,316
Fiscal year 2017 State average teacher salary: \$48,372
Fiscal year 2018 State average teacher salary: \$48,951
Fiscal year 2019 State average teacher salary: \$52,441
Fiscal year 2020 State average teacher salary: \$54,814
Fiscal year 2021 State average teacher salary: \$56,349
Fiscal year 2022 State average teacher salary: \$58,366
Fiscal year 2017 district students per teacher: 17.7
Fiscal year 2018 district students per teacher: 15.7
Fiscal year 2019 district students per teacher: 16.3
Fiscal year 2020 district students per teacher: 16.8
Fiscal year 2021 district students per teacher: 15.4
Fiscal year 2022 district students per teacher: 19.3
Fiscal year 2017 district average years of teacher experience: 8.9
Fiscal year 2018 district average years of teacher experience: 11.8
Fiscal year 2019 district average years of teacher experience: 11.9
Fiscal year 2020 district average years of teacher experience: 9.9
Fiscal year 2021 district average years of teacher experience: 10.3
Fiscal year 2022 district average years of teacher experience: 9.7
Fiscal year 2017 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 45%
Fiscal year 2018 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 19%
Fiscal year 2019 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 12%
Fiscal year 2020 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 31%
Fiscal year 2021 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 30%

Fiscal year 2022 district percentage of teachers in first 3 years: 30%

Student achievement

In fiscal years 2020 and 2021 State assessment testing was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with school districts being exempted from conducting State assessments in fiscal year 2020 and not all eligible students participating in fiscal year 2021. With nearly all districts returning to in-person learning in fiscal year 2022, we are presenting the percentage of students who passed State assessments for Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science assessments. For fiscal year 2022, we also present an achievement peer group average and the State average for comparison.

To provide additional context, we have included percentage of students who passed State assessments for the District in Math, ELA, and Science for the past 5 fiscal years. Data is not reported for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the reasons noted above, and a district may not have data presented for additional years to protect student privacy.

Bar charts showing student assessment passage rates

Fiscal year 2022 district Math passage rate: 5%

Fiscal year 2022 peer Math passage rate: 17%

Fiscal year 2022 State Math passage rate: 33%

Fiscal year 2022 district English Language Arts passage rate: 7%

Fiscal year 2022 peer English Language Arts passage rate: 22%

Fiscal year 2022 State English Language Arts passage rate: 40%

Fiscal year 2022 district Science passage rate: N/A

Fiscal year 2022 peer Science passage rate: 13%

Fiscal year 2022 State Science passage rate: 24%