

*September 15, 2023*

### **District Spending**

- Total spending increased by \$544.2 million during the 2021-22 school year.
  - Increase in spending driven primarily by the addition of one-time federal COVID-relief dollars.
- Average district spending increased from \$19,134 per student to \$20,165 per student.
  - An increase of \$1,031 (or 5.3%) over the prior year.
  - Average district per-student spending eclipsed \$20,000 for the first time in state history.
- 155 districts, or 80% of the state's districts, reported increased per-student spending.
  - 64 districts increased spending by more than \$1,000 per student.

### **Impact of Federal Relief Funds**

- Spending from federal sources increased by approximately \$255.4 million over the previous year due to the influx of federal relief dollars.
  - Note: Spending data for the 2021-22 school year DOES NOT reflect all three rounds of federal relief funds that have been provided to districts.
- 137 of 194 districts had higher per-student spending from federal sources.
  - On average, spending from federal sources increased by \$285 per student (27.1%) from the previous year.
  - Spending from federal sources has increased from \$508 per student in 2019-20 to \$1,335 per student in 2021-22. This is a 163% increase over two years.
- 18 districts had an increase in federal spending greater than \$1,000 per-student.
  - Only 7 of these districts had an increase in enrollment.

### **Shifts in Spending**

- District spending increased across all categories except supplies and property, which had experienced the largest increases in spending (by percentage) during the previous year.
  - Spending data suggests as the pandemic waned, districts shifted spending away from building upgrades and COVID safety precautions toward categories more closely aligned with addressing student learning loss.
- Salaries and employee benefits continue to make up the largest chunk (74%) of total district spending.
  - Spending on salaries and employee benefits increased by approximately 4.9% and 3.4%, respectively, over the prior year.
- Districts experienced historic increases in transportation spending.
  - Spending on student transportation increased by nearly 22% over the previous year as students returned to in-person schooling.