



DATE: March 4, 2014
 TO: Joint Appropriations
 FROM: Joy Smolnisky, SD Budget & Policy Institute
 RE: Response to questions from Appropriations on Education testimony 1-22-14

Question 1: How much of the PSA is used for salaries and what % of the PSA increase in 2013 was used for salary increases?

The PSA flows into South Dakota school district general funds and is expended for salaries (65%), benefits (18%), purchased services (10%), supplies & material (6%) and “other” (1%) expenses.¹ See Figure 1.

In FY2013 the PSA increased by 2.3% in South Dakota.² Average South Dakota teacher salaries increased by 2.0%, from \$38,804 to \$39,590.³

2012-2013 General Fund Expenditures in South Dakota's k-12 Schools

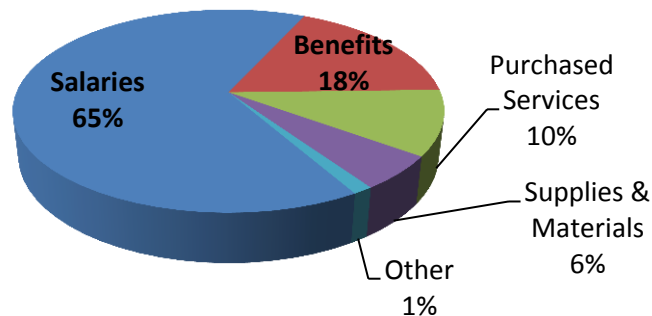


Chart by SD BPI; Data Source SD DOE
http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/GF_Exp_13.pdf

Question 2: What is the pupil- teacher ratio in South Dakota compared to neighboring states?

The average k-12 pupil-teacher ratio among South Dakota and its six neighboring states is 13.5 pupils per teacher.⁴ South Dakota is slightly below the midpoint at 13.26 pupils per teacher.

We were unable to locate a data source to compare neighboring state pupil-teacher ratios broken down to elementary/middle/high school levels.

Pupils per teacher in k-12 education

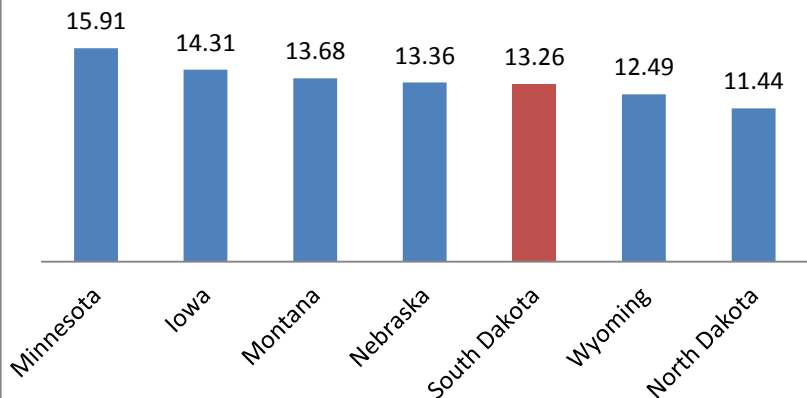


Chart by SD BPI; Data Source US DOE NCES, Common Core of

¹ http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/GF_Exp_13.pdf

² <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/SAbrief14b.pdf>

³ http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d13/tables/dt13_211.60.asp National Center for Education Statistics, Table 211.60 Estimated average annual salary of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, by state: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2012-13

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data: 2010-2011