

# Danville City Public Schools Budget Factors

## The Schools Our Children Deserve

We all want our children to attend schools that are well-resourced and able to provide reliable transportation, nutritious meals, quality instruction, and essential health services. Since the pandemic, our roughly 5,000 students in Danville face more challenges than ever, from staff shortages, drops in academic achievement, and additional mental health needs. When looking at our current local spending, it's clear our budget comes up short in meeting the most pressing challenges our students and schools face today. Danville can step up to fund our schools at levels that meet our students' needs and better reflect our capacity and commitment to our children.



### Budget

In the 2022-2023 school year, Danville City spent \$19,061 per student, ranking us 13 out of 131 school divisions in the state.

Danville has seen an increase in local per student spending of \$1,257 or 35% between the 2014-2015 and 2022-2023 school years (adjusted for inflation). Compared to the regional average for local per student spending, Danville spent \$334 less in the 2022-2023 school year. While Danville had a strengthening economy over this time, its level of commitment and effort towards schools did not reflect this.



### Capacity and Effort

Virtually every locality in the state spends beyond what the state requires it to match (referred to as Required Local Effort) because the state vastly underestimates what it actually costs to run schools. In aggregate, divisions spent 107% above the Required Local Effort, but Danville City only spent 106%, which is just 1 percentage points below the state average. Danville would need to spend \$200,774 more annually to be at the average state percent above the Required Local Effort.

Danville City has capacity to do more to raise adequate revenue for its schools. Danville City's property tax effort is 22% below the average city rate.

A one penny property tax increase in Danville City would raise approximately \$250,000 annually.



### Outcomes

Many students lost significant ground on state academic achievement between the 2018-2019 and 2022-2023 school years. Students in Danville saw a drop in pass rates on the reading SOL test of 17.3% and 41.2% in math - among the largest declines in the state. Yet further disparities exist, with math SOL pass rates dropping 56.9% for English Learners and 52.2% for economically disadvantaged students. Danville must do more for its students who face significant barriers to education.



### Staffing

The teacher vacancy rate in Danville was 3.1% as of October 2023. The overall staffing vacancy rate was 2.9% as of October 2023.

Danville had an average budgeted teacher salary of \$54,944 in the 2023-2024 school year, which is \$15,497 below the state average. With high salaries and lower cost of living in nearby communities, on top of a dwindling supply of graduates with teaching degrees, Danville is not in a strong position to compete for high-quality educators in the future.