

Greensville and Emporia 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 2,000 students in Greensville/Emporia 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. Greensville/Emporia 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, Greensville/Emporia spent \$17,476 per student, ranking us 21 out of 131 school divisions in the state.

Greensville/Emporia has seen an increase in local per student spending of \$2,568 or 88% between the 2014-2015 and 2022-2023 school years (adjusted for inflation).



Capacity and Effort

Virtually every division 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 127% above the Required Local Effort, but Greensville/Emporia spent 177%, which is 50 percentage points above the state average. *Data from 2021-22 school year when division last submitted to VDOE

Greensville and Emporia have capacity to do more to raise adequate revenue for their schools. Greensville County's property tax effort is 16% below the average state rate and Emporia is 15% below the average city rate.

A one penny property tax increase would raise approximately \$70,000 in Greensville and \$40,000 in Emporia annually.



Outcomes

Many students lost significant ground on state academic achievement between the 2018-2019 and 2022-2023 school years. Students in Greensville/Emporia saw a drop in pass rates on the reading SOL test of 10.5% and 47.1% in math - among the largest declines in the state. Yet further disparities exist, with math SOL pass rates dropping 65.0% for English Learners and 51.6% for economically disadvantaged students. Greensville/Emporia must do more for its students who face significant barriers to education.



Staffing

The overall staffing vacancy rate was 1.8% as of October 2023.

Greensville/Emporia had an average budgeted teacher salary of \$38,501 in the 2021-2022 school year (most recent year it provided data to VDOE), which is \$31,940 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, Greensville/Emporia is not in a strong position to compete for high-quality educators in the future.