

Dollars for Students

In 2008 the U.S. Census Bureau published *Public Education Finances*, reporting the average amount (dollars per student) spent by public schools in each state during the 2006 school year. (The table seen here divides states according to whether they lie east or west of the Mississippi River).

Write a report describing the amounts states spent to educate their children.

Eastern State	\$ per Student	Western State	\$ per Student
Alabama	7,646	Alaska	11,460
Connecticut	12,323	Arizona	6,472
Delaware	11,633	Arkansas	7,927
D.C.	13,446	California	8,486
Florida	7,759	Colorado	8,057
Georgia	8,565	Hawaii	9,876
Illinois	9,149	Idaho	6,440
Indiana	8,793	Iowa	8,360
Kentucky	7,662	Kansas	8,392
Maine	10,586	Louisiana	8,402
Maryland	10,670	Minnesota	9,138
Massachusetts	11,981	Missouri	8,107
Michigan	9,572	Montana	8,581
Mississippi	7,221	Nebraska	8,736
New Hampshire	10,079	Nevada	7,345
New Jersey	14,630	New Mexico	8,086
New York	14,884	North Dakota	8,603
North Carolina	7,388	Oklahoma	6,961
Ohio	9,598	Oregon	8,545
Pennsylvania	11,028	South Dakota	7,651
Rhode Island	11,769	Texas	7,561
South Carolina	8,091	Utah	5,437
Tennessee	6,883	Washington	7,830
Vermont	12,614	Wyoming	11,197
Virginia	9,447		
West Virginia	9,352		
Wisconsin	9,970		

A complete report will include a visual display (stem-and-leaf plot), appropriate statistics, and a well-written description of the expenditures (in context, of course).

	Components	Comments
Think	Demonstrates clear understanding of statistical concepts, vocabulary, and procedures in analyzing and describing these data.	
Show	Visual/Numerical: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ stem-and-leaf plot ○ plot well-labeled ○ plot correctly constructed ○ summary statistics correct 	
Tell	Verbal: Describes the distribution of expenditures <i>in context</i> , including... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shape (skewed right by higher spending in the East) ○ center (median) ○ spread (IQR) The written analysis... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ also interprets at least one quartile, or the max or min <i>in context</i> ○ identifies the W's ○ uses statistical vocabulary correctly ○ avoids speculation 	