

MYTH #1: St. Johns County is one of the richest counties in the state of Florida, so the school district must have sufficient funding.



Fact #1: While St. Johns County does rank near the top of the state in per capita income, that doesn't necessarily translate to well-funded schools. The primary source of school funding is Ad Valorem (Property) Tax. Assuming a 96% collection rate, in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, St. Johns County had a total Adjusted Taxable Property Value of \$52,049,365,056. When the statutory maximum millages for Discretionary Operational Funding (0.748 mills) and Capital Outlay Funding (1.5 mills) are applied to this value, both generate less than the state average in per-student funding.

2023-2024 Discretionary Operational Funding (0.748 mills)

County	96% of Taxable Value	Unweighted FTE	Per Student
St. Johns	\$52,049,368,056	53,015.84	\$734.36
State Totals	\$3,203,404,634,199	3,056,958.87	\$805.51

2023-2024 Capital Outlay Funding (1.5 mills)

County	96% of Taxable Value	Capital Outlay FTE	Per Student
St. Johns	\$52,049,368,056	49,136.75	\$1,588.91
State Totals	\$3,203,404,634,199	2,366,794.28	\$2,030.22

Sources:

[2023-2024 Florida Education Finance Program \(FEF\)](#)

[2023-2024 Capital Outlay FTE](#)

MYTH #2: The school district spends way too much of its money on administration.



Fact #2: In 2022-2023, St. Johns County District Schools spent an average of \$607.52 per student on administrative expenses. This is the fifth lowest of the 67 Florida counties and well below the state average of \$720.18 per student.

Source:

[FLDOE Summary of Administrative Expenditures](#)

MYTH #3: Property taxes keep going up every year so the school district must be receiving plenty of money.



Fact #3: While your overall property tax has increased, your school taxes have not. The chart below shows the school tax and millage rates for the average home, protected by homestead, in St. Johns County. The Required Local Effort (RLE) is a millage rate set by the state, and it has decreased over the past 10 years.

Fiscal Year	Assessed Value	Taxable Value	State RLE	School Taxes
2015	\$295,305	\$270,305	5.094	\$1,377
2016	\$304,164	\$279,164	4.980	\$1,390
2017	\$313,289	\$288,289	4.619	\$1,332
2018	\$322,688	\$297,688	4.295	\$1,279
2019	\$332,368	\$307,368	4.030	\$1,239
2020	\$342,339	\$317,339	3.888	\$1,234
2021	\$352,610	\$327,610	3.705	\$1,214
2022	\$363,188	\$338,188	3.564	\$1,205
2023	\$374,083	\$349,083	3.235	\$1,129
2024	\$385,306	\$360,306	3.162	\$1,139

Source:

[Florida Department of Revenue](#)

MYTH #4: I don't work for the school district, and I don't have kids attending the school district, so this really doesn't benefit me.



Fact #4: Great schools make great communities. A high graduation rate contributes to low unemployment and a strong local economy. In 2023, the unemployment rate in St. Johns County was historically low at 2.7%. Great schools also contribute to increased property values, benefiting all homeowners.

Source:

[FLHealthCharts.gov](#)

MYTH #5: The school district receives plenty of money; problems can be solved by cutting expenditures.

FACT



Fact #5: St. Johns County generates less than the state average in capital outlay and discretionary operational funding (see Myth #1). Additionally, the school district ranks in the lowest five in the state for administrative expenses per student (see Myth #2). Cutting expenditures further would reduce services that directly support students.

MYTH #6: If the school district issues a salary supplement from an additional millage, the district will not increase base salaries for employees.

FACT



Fact #6: Funds from the millage will support salary supplements, but this will not prevent base salary increases for employees. Base salaries for instructional and educational support staff will continue to be adjusted annually.