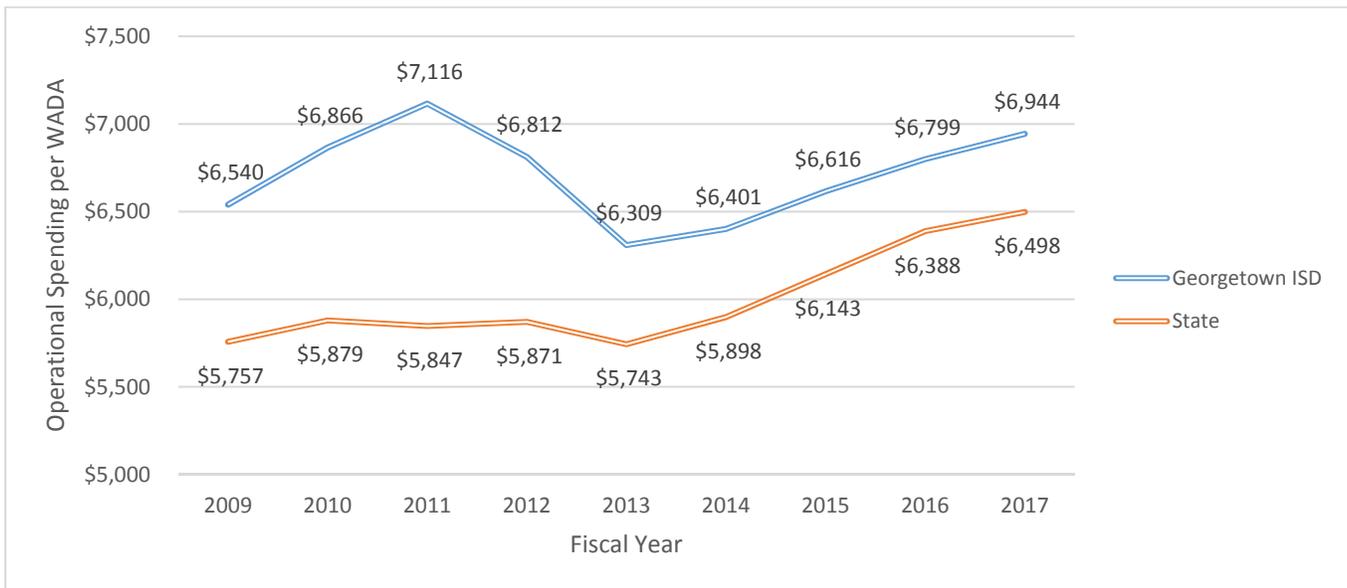


Operational Spending for Georgetown ISD



A standard Texas Education Agency measurement that is used to evaluate school district expenditures is the operational spending¹ per student. The above chart compares Georgetown ISD operational spending per student to the average statewide equivalent spending.

Several interesting facts stand out from the chart. First, Georgetown’s operational spending per WADA² has historically exceeded the state’s spending; however, the spending gap has diminished significantly from its widest gap in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 of \$1,269 per student to a difference of \$446 per student in FY 2017.

Second, FY2011 was the district’s highpoint in spending per WADA. In the following fiscal years, the district’s spending per student fell sharply due to the nationwide economic downturn and subsequent state aid reductions. From FY2009 to FY2013, the state spending average remained relatively flat with respect to the economic downturn.

Third, even though Georgetown ISD experienced unprecedented tax value increases over the past several years, these increases have not resulted in equivalent spending increases. The spending increases were largely the result of the state’s increases in its funding allocations. **The amount spent per WADA in FY2017 was \$172 less than the amount spent in FY2011.**

Lastly, spending for the district bottomed out in FY2013 at \$6,309 per WADA. By FY2017, the estimated spending per student had grown by \$635 to \$6,944. That’s an average annual growth rate of 2.5%. The average Texas public school district operational spending per student grew by 3.3% per year during the same time-period.

Taxation and school district spending are tied to the state funding formulas that are set by the legislature. They will be discussed in a separate report on the workings of school finance.

¹ Operational spending – This is a district’s core General Fund spending and is not the total spent for a district. Costs, which are part of the normal operational spending, such as payroll, supplies, utilities, contracted services, travel, etc., are included. Excluded costs include those that typically vary significantly between districts (capital outlay, debt, recapture, one-time anomalies, etc.) that distort the comparisons.

² Weighted average daily attendance (WADA) is used as a proxy for students. WADA accounts for the effect of special programs and funding weights on district spending.