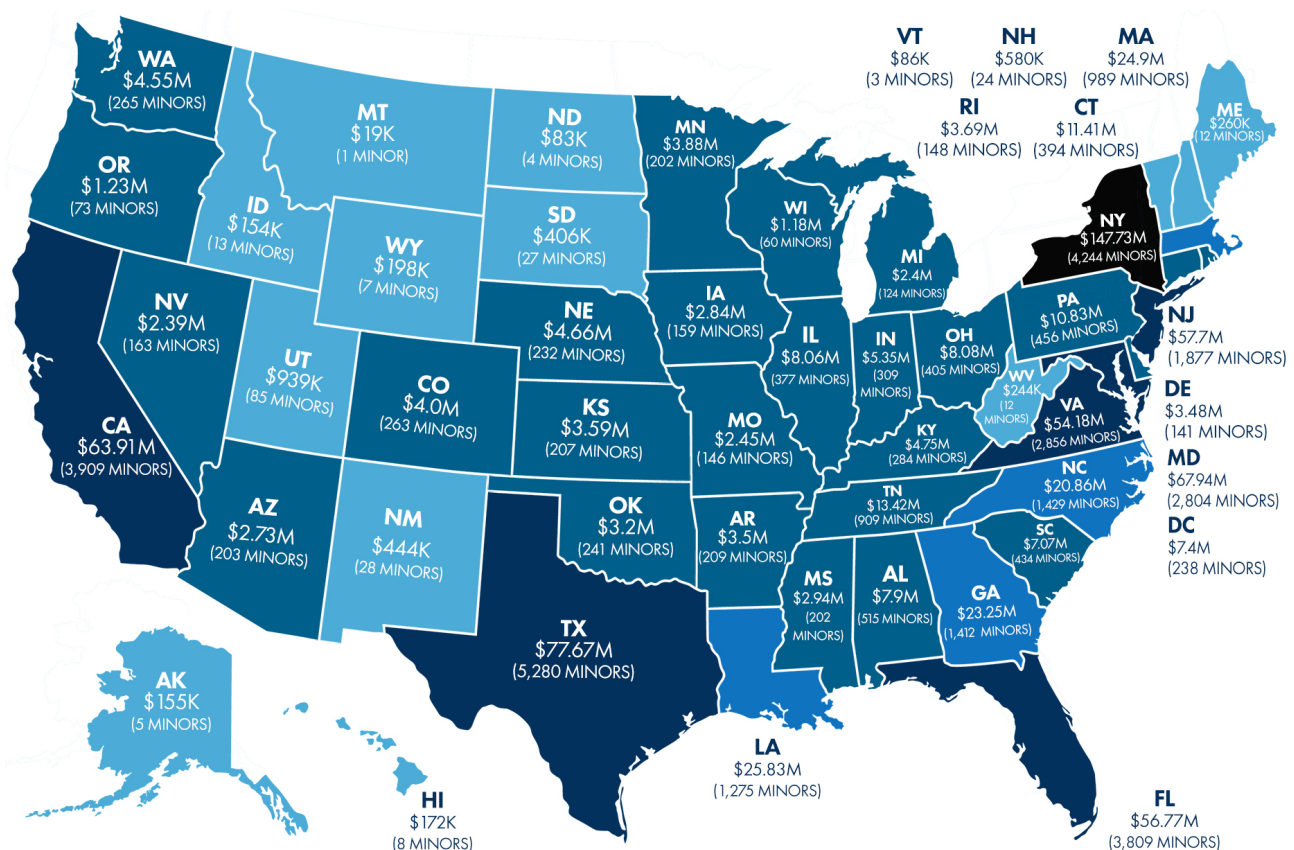


Estimated Cost of K-12 Public Education for Unaccompanied Alien Children

By Eric A. Ruark, Research Director
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According to data from the Department of Health and Human Services, more than 37,000 of the unaccompanied illegal alien minors from the border crisis were released to relatives and other sponsors between January 1 and July 31.

Based on earlier estimates of the cost of educating LEP students in public schools, we came up with an estimate of how much it will cost taxpayers in each state to educate illegal alien minors in the coming school year.



Costs By State

	K-12 Education Cost Per Pupil ¹	Total Unaccompanied Children ²	Estimated UAC Enrollment ³	Total Cost
Alabama	\$15,554	515	505	\$7,850,342
Alaska	\$31,592	5	5	\$154,802
Arizona	\$13,732	203	199	\$2,731,911
Arkansas	\$17,097	209	205	\$3,501,774
California	\$16,683	3,909	3,831	\$63,908,143
Colorado	\$15,529	263	258	\$4,002,452
Connecticut	\$29,565	394	386	\$11,415,539
DC	\$31,734	238	233	\$7,401,608
Delaware	\$25,188	141	138	\$3,480,528
Florida	\$15,209	3,809	3,733	\$56,773,589
Georgia	\$16,799	1,412	1,384	\$23,245,642
Hawaii	\$21,898	8	8	\$171,683
Idaho	\$12,097	13	13	\$154,120
Illinois	\$21,827	377	369	\$8,064,384
Indiana	\$17,656	309	303	\$5,346,705
Iowa	\$18,236	159	156	\$2,841,517
Kansas	\$17,709	207	203	\$3,592,459
Kentucky	\$17,061	284	278	\$4,748,280
Louisiana	\$20,672	1,275	1,250	\$25,829,748
Maine	\$22,144	12	12	\$260,409
Maryland	\$24,723	2,804	2,748	\$67,937,602
Massachusetts	\$25,692	989	969	\$24,900,788
Michigan	\$19,720	124	122	\$2,396,389
Minnesota	\$19,613	202	198	\$3,882,580
Mississippi	\$14,831	202	198	\$2,936,029
Missouri	\$17,142	146	143	\$2,452,713
Montana	\$19,010	1	1	\$18,630
Nebraska	\$20,483	232	227	\$4,657,046
Nevada	\$14,939	163	160	\$2,386,294
New Hampshire	\$24,694	24	24	\$580,808
New Jersey	\$31,367	1,877	1,839	\$57,698,181
New Mexico	\$16,167	28	27	\$443,614
New York	\$35,520	4,244	4,159	\$147,731,339
North Carolina	\$14,897	1,429	1,400	\$20,861,808
North Dakota	\$21,217	4	4	\$83,171
Ohio	\$20,354	405	397	\$8,078,560
Oklahoma	\$13,563	241	236	\$3,203,398
Oregon	\$17,240	73	72	\$1,233,375
Pennsylvania	\$24,235	456	447	\$10,829,956
Rhode Island	\$25,443	148	145	\$3,690,208
South Carolina	\$16,617	434	425	\$7,067,640
South Dakota	\$15,344	27	26	\$405,995
Tennessee	\$15,068	909	891	\$13,422,508
Texas	\$15,008	5,280	5,174	\$77,655,584
Utah	\$11,274	85	83	\$939,154
Vermont	\$29,140	3	3	\$85,671
Virginia	\$19,359	2,856	2,799	\$54,182,412
Washington	\$17,507	265	260	\$4,546,672
West Virginia	\$20,792	12	12	\$244,514
Wisconsin	\$20,060	60	59	\$1,179,519
Wyoming	\$28,880	7	7	\$198,116
		37,472	36,723	\$761,405,907

State Rankings By Cost

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¹ Mark Dixon, “Public Education Finances: 2012,” Table 20, Per Pupil Current Spending (PPCS) Amounts and 1-Year Percentage Changes for PPCS of Public Elementary-Secondary School Systems by State: Fiscal Years 2007–2012, U.S. Census Bureau, G12-CG-ASPE, May 2014, p. 28. (<http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/12f33pub.pdf>). The 2012 Census Bureau figures were adjusted for inflation using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator, <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=15%2C897&year1=2012&year2=2014>. Student who receive Limited English Proficient (LEP) education are often the children of illegal aliens and demographers and education experts have formed cost profiles of these students. See Eric A. Ruark, “English Language Learners and Public Education in Utah,” FAIR Horizon Press, November 2012, pp. 8-9 (http://www.fairus.org/DocServer/Utah_LEP_final.pdf). For this estimate, the per pupil cost of educated unaccompanied minor students was calculated to be 0.75 higher than the average per pupil cost in each state.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, “Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors By State,” <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors>, accessed August 25, 2014.

³ Using data obtained from U.S. Customs and Border Protection via a Freedom of Information Act request, Pew Research Center estimates that approximately 99% of unaccompanied minors were old enough to immediately attend public schools. Jens Manuel Krogstad, Ana Gonzalez-Barrera and Mark Hugo Lopez, “Children 12 and under are fastest growing group of unaccompanied minors at U.S. border,” Pew Research Center, July 22, 2014, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/22/children-12-and-under-are-fastest-growing-group-of-unaccompanied-minors-at-u-s-border/>, accessed August 25, 2014. FAIR estimated that 98% of these minors would be enrolled in public schools in the 2014 school year.