In New England in 2011, per-student expenditures for public school students ranged from $8,500 to $21,500. The highest-spending counties spent about two-and-a-half times what was spent in the lowest-spending counties.

The 10 lowest-spending counties ($8,500 to $9,600) are all in Maine. The 10 highest-spending are in Massachusetts (3 counties), Rhode Island* (4), and New Hampshire (3), with Dukes, Nantucket, and Suffolk counties, all in Massachusetts, claiming the top three spots. Average per-pupil spending for the 2.1 million students in public school systems in New England was $13,218.

*Rhode Island data is for 2010. Nevertheless, all Rhode Island counties are in the top two high-spending quintiles in this analysis.