

School year 2022-23, the first year of the Hope Scholarship program:

- 2,333 students participated during the Hope Scholarship Program’s inaugural year. This count represents 0.9% of total public school enrollment.
- Total funding for the program during SY 2022-23 is \$9.2 million. This program cost represents 0.2% of the \$4.0 billion total funding that West Virginia public schools receive.
- The average ESA cost for Hope students during 2022-23 was \$3,938. The same students generate, on average, \$15,679 per student for West Virginia public schools. Thus, students in the Hope Scholarship program are funded at just one-quarter (25.1%) of the funding they would have received in the public school system. This funding gap suggests that when students leave the public school system via the Hope program, West Virginia taxpayers accrue significant fiscal benefits.

School year 2023-24, the second year of the Hope Scholarship program:

- The number of students participating in the Hope Scholarship program increased in the second year from 2,333 to 5,971, or by 155%. This count represents 2.4% of total public school enrollment.
- Total funding for the program during SY 2022-23 is \$25.7 million. This program cost represents 0.6% of the \$4.0 billion total funding that West Virginia public schools receive.
- Thus, the Hope program enrolls 2.4% of eligible K-12 students and receives 0.6% of public funding for K-12 education.
- The ESA amount for a student who participates in Hope for a full year is \$4,299. The same students generate, on average, \$15,679 per student for West Virginia public schools. Thus, students in the Hope Scholarship program are funded at just over one-quarter (27.4%) of the funding they would have received in the public school system. This funding gap suggests that when students leave the public school system via the Hope program, West Virginia taxpayers accrue significant fiscal benefits.

The above information does not account for any potential savings from Hope students who leave public schools. When student enrollment decreases via Hope:

- The amount of state funding for public schools decreases because there are fewer students in the public school system.
- Educational costs for public schools also decrease, allowing districts to adjust to reduced revenue from decreases in enrollment.
 - o Economists estimate that, on average, short run variable costs are about two-thirds of total costs.
 - o A fundamental economic principle holds that in the long run, all costs are variable. This means that for a given change in enrollment, districts are able to fully adjust their operations over time.
- Thus, when Hope students leave public schools, there will be savings for state and local taxpayers that offset the state’s program cost.

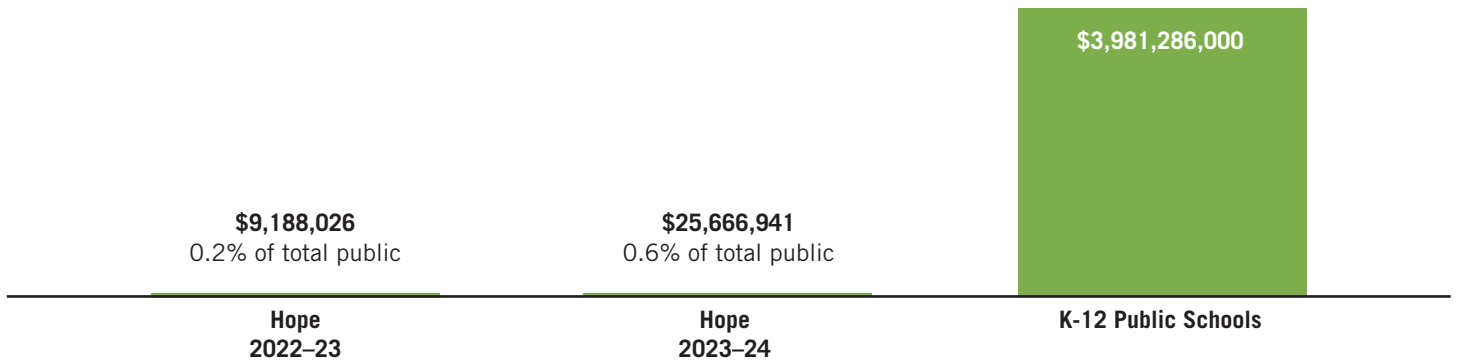
TABLE 1: COSTS AND ENROLLMENT FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, SCHOOL YEARS 2022-23 AND 2023-24 AND WV K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Hope (2022-23)	Hope (2023-24)	WV public schools	Hope Share (2022-23)	Hope Share (2023-24)
Number of students	2,333	5,971	253,655	0.9%	2.4%
Total cost	\$9,188,026	\$25,666,941	\$3,981,286,000	0.2%	0.6%
Avg. cost per student*	\$3,938	\$4,299	\$15,679	25.1%	27.4%

Sources: West Virginia State Treasurer’s Office (2023), Hope Scholarship West Virginia: Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/Home/About/Annual-Reports>; West Virginia Department of Education, “County Boards of Education Summary of Second Month Net Enrollment (Including Certified Adults) 2022-23 School Year,” <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Net-Enrollment-2nd-Mo-23.pdf>; EdChoice, “West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program,” <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/programs/hope-scholarship-program/>.

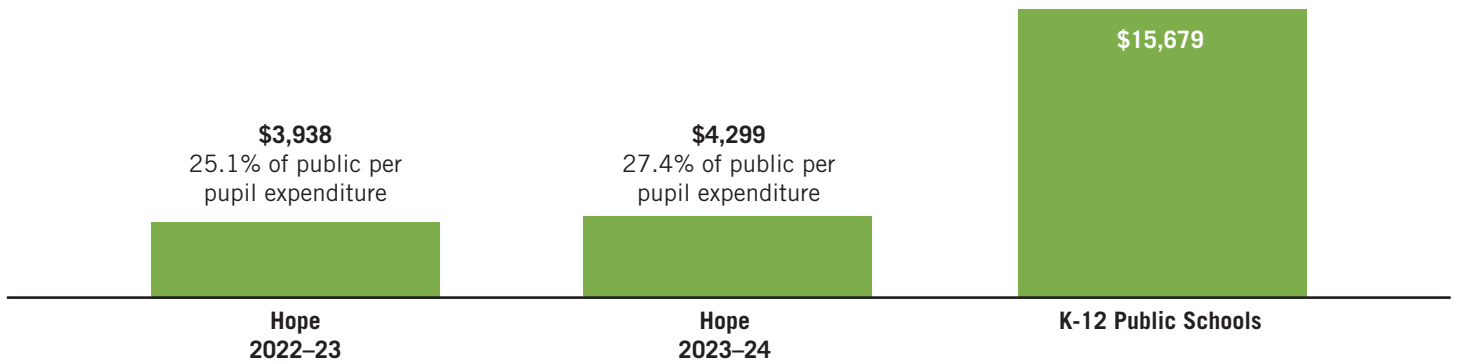
* For 2022-23, the full-year Hope scholarship award is \$4,299. The average cost of the program that year is less because some awards are prorated for students who participate in the program for less than a full year. For 2023-24, the table assumes that all Hope scholarship students participate in the program for a full year.

FIGURE 1: TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND WV K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS



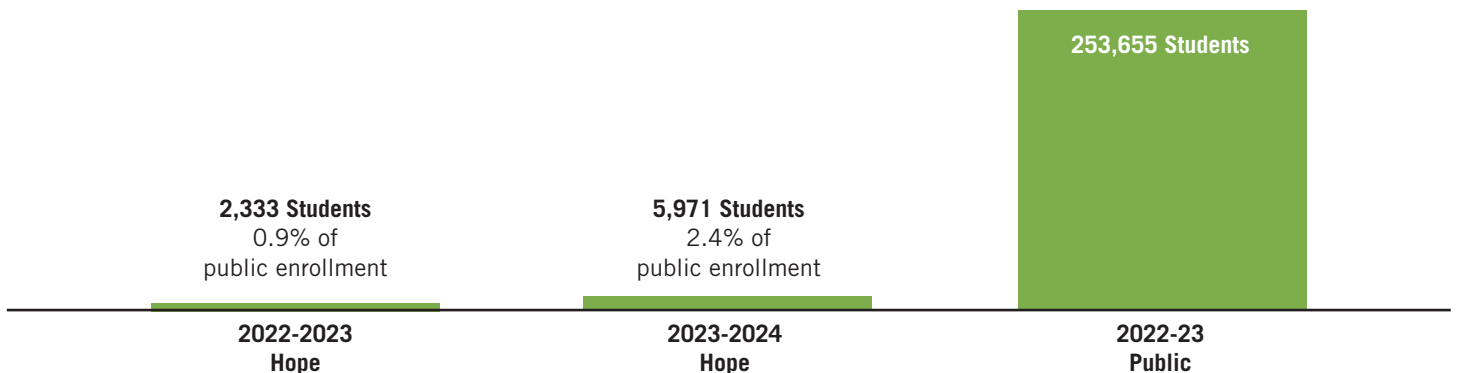
Sources: West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (2023), Hope Scholarship West Virginia: Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/Home/About/Annual-Reports>; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS)," FY 21, Provisional Version 1a; and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," school year 2020-21, Provisional Version 1a, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2023/2023301.pdf>

FIGURE 2: AVERAGE TOTAL EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND WV K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Sources: West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (2023), Hope Scholarship West Virginia: Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/Home/About/Annual-Reports>; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS)," FY 21, Provisional Version 1a; and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," school year 2020-21, Provisional Version 1a, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2023/2023301.pdf>

FIGURE 3: TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND WV K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Sources: West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (2023), Hope Scholarship West Virginia: Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/Home/About/Annual-Reports>; West Virginia Department of Education, "County Boards of Education Summary of Second Month Net Enrollment (Including Certified Adults) 2022-23 School Year," <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Net-Enrollment-2nd-Mo-23.pdf>; EdChoice, "West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program," <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/programs/hope-scholarship-program/>