

# A FY 2023 Comparative Review of 50 Mississippi School Districts: Operations

A Report to the Mississippi Legislature

Report #719 – Volume V

July 29, 2025



# PEER Committee

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Robin Robinson, Vice-Chair

Chad McMahan, Secretary

## Senators:

Kevin Blackwell

Scott DeLano

Dean Kirby

Charles Younger

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## Representatives:

Tracy Arnold

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## Executive Director:

James F. (Ted) Booth

## About PEER:

The Mississippi Legislature created the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER Committee) by statute in 1973. A joint committee, the PEER Committee is composed of seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and seven members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. Appointments are made for four-year terms, with one Senator and one Representative appointed from each of the U.S. Congressional Districts and three at-large members appointed from each house. Committee officers are elected by the membership, with officers alternating annually between the two houses. All Committee actions by statute require a majority vote of four Representatives and four Senators voting in the affirmative.

Mississippi's constitution gives the Legislature broad power to conduct examinations and investigations. PEER is authorized by law to review any public entity, including contractors supported in whole or in part by public funds, and to address any issues that may require legislative action. PEER has statutory access to all state and local records and has subpoena power to compel testimony or the production of documents.

PEER provides a variety of services to the Legislature, including program evaluations, economy and efficiency reviews, financial audits, limited scope evaluations, fiscal notes, and other governmental research and assistance. The Committee identifies inefficiency or ineffectiveness or a failure to accomplish legislative objectives, and makes recommendations for redefinition, redirection, redistribution and/or restructuring of Mississippi government. As directed by and subject to the prior approval of the PEER Committee, the Committee's professional staff executes audit and evaluation projects obtaining information and developing options for consideration by the Committee. The PEER Committee releases reports to the Legislature, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the agency examined, and the general public.

The Committee assigns top priority to written requests from individual legislators and legislative committees. The Committee also considers PEER staff proposals and written requests from state officials and others.



# Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review

PEER Committee

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P.O. Box 1204 | Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1204

## Representatives

Kevin Felsher

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Tracy Arnold

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Cedric Burnett

Becky Currie

Casey Eure

Kevin Ford

July 29, 2025

Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor

Honorable Delbert Hosemann, Lieutenant Governor

Honorable Jason White, Speaker of the House

Members of the Mississippi State Legislature

On July 29, 2025, the PEER Committee authorized release of the report titled  
***A FY 2023 Comparative Analysis of 50 Mississippi School Districts:  
Operations (Volume V).***

## Senators

Robin Robinson

Vice Chair

Chad McMahan

Secretary

Kevin Blackwell

Scott DeLano

Dean Kirby

Charles Younger

Vacant

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin W. Felsher".

Representative Kevin Felsher, Chair

## Executive Director

James F. (Ted) Booth

**This report does not recommend increased funding or additional staff.**

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# Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal .....	i
List of Exhibits .....	iv
Report Highlights .....	v
Restrictions .....	1
Introduction .....	2
Conclusions Regarding Districts' Collection of Benchmark Data for Use in Managing Operations .....	4
Conclusions Regarding Districts' Collection of Key Performance Indicators for Use in Managing Operations .....	7
Conclusions Regarding How Districts' Data Collection May Impact Operations Costs.....	32
Conclusions Regarding Cost Savings.....	33
Recommendations .....	51
Appendix A: A List of School Districts Included in This Review .....	52
Appendix B: FY 2023 Operations Information for Districts Reporting.....	54
Appendix C: FY 2023 Operations Benchmark Data and Performance Indicators for Districts Reporting .....	57

## List of Exhibits

### **Exhibit 1: Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses for Reporting**

Districts for FY 2023 ..... 9

**Exhibit 2: Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 11**

**Exhibit 3: Custodial Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 13**

**Exhibit 4: Custodial Cost per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 15**

**Exhibit 5: Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 17**

**Exhibit 6: Square Footage per Custodian for FY 2023 for Reporting Districts ..... 19**

**Exhibit 7: Maintenance Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 21**

### **Exhibit 8: Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order for Reporting**

Districts for FY 2023 ..... 23

**Exhibit 9: Square Footage per Maintenance Technician for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 25**

**Exhibit 10: Acres per Groundskeeper for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 27**

**Exhibit 11: Square Footage per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 29**

**Exhibit 12: Square Footage per School for Reporting Districts for FY 2023 ..... 31**

**Exhibit 13: Projected Potential Cost Savings in Reporting Districts based on FY 2023 Data Reported .. 34**

**CONCLUSION:** A review of the operations programs for 50 Mississippi school districts in FY 2023 showed opportunities for districts to strengthen their programs and increase efficiency. For example, 31 reporting districts (63%) did not have a formal preventative maintenance program. Without such a program, districts risk unexpected and potentially costly issues with their facilities and equipment. There was also wide variance in the performance of districts in key areas such as custodial cost per square foot and maintenance cost per square foot, suggesting that districts have room for improvement. As a whole, reporting districts performed favorably compared to regional and national peers in certain areas (e.g., custodial costs), while districts underperformed peers in other areas (e.g., maintenance costs).



### BACKGROUND

In FY 2025, PEER received funding to contract with Glimpse K12 (now Level Data) to conduct a comparative review of 50 school districts. This report focuses on one of six non-instructional areas of review—operations (Volume V). Other non-instructional reports include:

- Finance and Supply Chain (Volume I);
- Human Resources (Volume II);
- Information Technology (Volume III);
- Nutrition (Volume IV); and,
- Transportation (Volume VI).

- Reporting districts performed favorably on custodial cost measures compared to regional peers (e.g., lower custodial cost per square foot and per student); however, districts spent more on maintenance costs per square foot than did regional peers.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Of the 49 reporting districts, 23 (47%) did not utilize an electronic maintenance work order system.**  
Such systems could increase efficiency and enhance decision making.
- **Of reporting districts, 31 (63%) did not have a formal preventative maintenance program.**  
Without such a program, districts risk unexpected and potentially costly issues with their facilities and equipment.
- **Of reporting districts, 31 (63%) did not participate in an energy management program.**  
An energy management program that involves principals and facility leaders could lead to savings and environmental sustainability.
- **18 (37%) did not conduct a formal facilities assessment each year.**  
Such assessments are intended to ensure building safety and can assist administrators in prioritizing repairs and upgrades.

### Variance in District Performance

Districts reported a wide range of costs and performance associate with custodial, maintenance, and groundskeeping services. For example:

- Custodial cost per square foot ranged from \$0.37 in Starkville Oktibbeha to \$3.95 in Pontotoc County, with a median of \$1.37.
- Maintenance cost per square foot ranged from \$0.77 in Pontotoc County to \$10.31 in Amory, with a median of \$4.27.

These wide variances suggest that districts have opportunities to improve their performance on the key indicators in this report, which could result in improved efficiencies, cost savings, and/or improved service levels.



## Issues with Missing Data

The conclusions of this report were inhibited by district's inability to provide the requested data. For example:

- 16 districts (32%) did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial cost per student or reported data that could not be clarified and therefore was excluded from the analysis (see Exhibit 4 on page 15);
- 18 districts (36%) did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial supply cost per square foot or provided data that could not be clarified and therefore was excluded (see Exhibit 5 on page 17); and,
- 28 districts (56%) did not provide the total number of acres on their school campuses or the number of groundskeeper FTEs (see Exhibit 10 on page 27).
- Aberdeen failed to provide any data for this review.

The failure to either collect and/or provide information on key indicators for this review suggests that district administrators do not have the information they need to make decisions regarding their operations functions.

## Cost Savings

Based on FY 2023 data reported, of the districts reporting, 26 districts could realize annual projected potential cost savings of up to \$17 million by reducing costs associated with their custodial, maintenance, and/or groundskeeping functions.

While the reported data suggests the potential for cost savings for these districts, each district's administration should carefully review the data and recommendations in light of the particular circumstances of the district.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICTS

1. In FY 2026, each district's superintendent, in consultation with the district's operations personnel, should review the information from this report and implement the relevant recommendations to increase efficiency, improve service levels, and/or achieve cost savings. Such recommendations include, but are not limited to:
  - a. implementing an electronic work order system;
  - b. conducting formal annual facility assessments;
  - c. implementing an energy management program; and,
  - d. implementing a formal preventative maintenance program.
2. For districts that were unable to provide certain information during this review pertaining to their operations, relevant district personnel should begin collecting and monitoring this data on an ongoing basis.
3. If feasible, districts should begin tracking custodial, maintenance, and groundskeeping costs separately.
4. District personnel should provide an annual report to the district superintendent regarding the status of the district's operations using the measures included in this review.



# A FY 2023 Comparative Review of 50 Mississippi School Districts: Operations (Volume V)

## Restrictions

This review is a continuation of previous studies conducted by Glimpse K12 (now Level Data<sup>1</sup>) of Mississippi school districts' operational programs and expenses. (See additional information on these previous studies in the Introduction on page 2.) For this review, Level Data selected 50 additional Mississippi school districts of varying sizes (based on student enrollments), geographic regions, and accountability ratings. Appendix A on page 52 lists the districts included in this review.

Level Data provided this report to the PEER Committee based on data and extrapolated information provided by the school districts for school year 2022-2023 (i.e., FY 2023). Level Data did not independently verify the data or information provided by the districts or their programs. If the districts choose to provide additional data or information, Level Data reserves the right to amend the report.

All decisions made concerning the contents of this report are understood to be the sole responsibility of any organization or individual making the decision. Level Data does not and will not in the future perform any management functions for any organizations or individuals related to this report.

This report is solely intended to be a resource guide.

*PEER staff contributed to the overall message of this report and recommendations based on the data and information provided by Level Data. PEER staff also provided quality assurance and editing for this report to comply with PEER writing standards; however, PEER did not validate the source data collected by Level Data.*

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<sup>1</sup> In FY 2024, Level Data acquired Glimpse K12, which is referenced in previous PEER reports.  
PEER Report #719 – Volume V

# Introduction

School district administrators are responsible for spending millions of dollars annually on instructional and operational expenses. While operational expenses could be viewed as a secondary concern to instructional expenses, operational costs could escalate, possibly unnecessarily, without proper oversight and monitoring.

As noted previously, this report is one of a series of reports that provide decisionmakers with comparative data regarding selected Mississippi school districts' key operational programs and associated costs (i.e., human resources [HR], transportation, operations, nutrition, information technology, and finance). Mississippi has a total of 138<sup>2</sup> school districts. To date, Level Data has collected and analyzed the following data sets from Mississippi's districts:

Number of School Districts	Period of Data Collected	Name of Data Set for PEER Purposes	Reporting of Analysis Results*
30 districts	FY 2022	Cohort 1	Published in PEER Reports #690a through #690f.
	FY 2023	Cohort 2	Not published in separate PEER reports. However, selected Cohort 2 data was combined with selected Cohort 3 data in PEER Reports #703i through #703vi.
50 districts	FY 2023	Cohort 3	Published in PEER Reports #703i through #703vi.**
50 districts	FY 2023	Cohort 4	Published in this report.
8 districts	FY 2023 (projected)	Cohort 5 (projected)	Projected to be published in PEER reports in 2026.

\*Appendix A in each respective report lists the districts that were included in the analysis for that report.

\*\*In order to represent a more complete data set and provide a better sense of the true state median, Level Data combined selected FY 2023 data from Cohorts 2 and 3 to calculate medians and performance quartiles for the exhibits in these reports.

After the final review of the remaining districts in FY 2026, Level Data will have collected FY 2023 data for all 138 traditional public school districts in Mississippi. By collecting data from a single fiscal year for all school districts, Level Data will be able to calculate medians and performance quartiles for the entire state on each performance measure. As a result, district administrators will have the comparative data for their districts to identify which operational areas potentially need improvement and which areas demonstrate effectiveness and/or efficiency.

For the analysis for this report, Level Data selected 50<sup>3</sup> of Mississippi's districts with a range of characteristics, including geographic location, enrollment, and grades based on the statewide accountability system to provide data on their operational functions and then analyzed data regarding their operations programs and expenses. The districts selected for review in this analysis were not included in previous PEER reports on operations programs and expenses (PEER Reports #690e and #703v).

<sup>2</sup> This number does not include Mississippi's public charter school districts.

<sup>3</sup> Appendix A on page 52 lists the districts selected for this review. Although 50 districts were selected, only 49 districts provided the requested information (i.e., benchmark data and performance data), either in part or in full. Aberdeen did not provide information for this review.

Appendix A on page 52 lists the 50 school districts that were included in this review. Appendix B on page 54 provides general operations information for each district.

This report presents data reported by school districts regarding benchmarks (e.g., utilization of electronic work order systems) and performance indicators (e.g., maintenance cost per square foot). Appendix C on page 57 provides FY 2023 operations benchmark data and performance indicators for the districts reporting. This report also provides some regional and national averages as a basis for comparison.

School district administrators should use this information to determine areas for improvement and to make informed decisions regarding their districts' operations.

# Conclusions Regarding Districts' Collection of Benchmark Data for Use in Managing Operations

Benchmarking is the process of comparing and measuring different organizations' activities. Districts can use benchmark data, combined with key performance indicators, to gain insight in identifying best practices and opportunities for improvement and cost reductions. This report surveyed districts' reporting of the following benchmark data:

- utilization of an electronic maintenance work order system;
- implementation of a formal preventative maintenance program;
- implementation of an energy management program; and,
- administration of a formal annual facilities assessment.

Forty-nine of the 50 districts reviewed provided the above-listed benchmark information.<sup>4</sup>

## Utilization of an Electronic Maintenance Work Order System

**Among the 49 districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 23 (47%) did not use an electronic work order system. Such systems could increase efficiency and enhance districts' decision making.**

A properly implemented electronic maintenance work order system can offer districts several advantages. First, it can enhance maintenance efficiency by automating work order requests and improving communication, resulting in quicker response times and improved task prioritization. Furthermore, most systems allow for tracking maintenance history and asset information, enabling the identification of trends and patterns for informed decision making and optimal resource utilization. However, the proper implementation and acceptance of an electronic work order system by operations and maintenance personnel is critical to an electronic work order system improving maintenance efficiencies. Also, not having an electronic work order system does not ensure that a district will perform poorly in relation to operations services.

## Implementation of a Formal Preventative Maintenance Program

**Of the 49 school districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 31 (63%) did not have a formal preventative maintenance program. Without such a program, districts risk unexpected and potentially costly issues with their facilities and equipment.**

Preventative maintenance refers to a proactive approach to maintaining equipment and facilities to prevent potential issues, breakdowns, or failures. It involves regularly scheduled inspections, servicing, and repairs to identify and address potential problems before they escalate. The goal of preventative maintenance is to increase reliability, prolong the lifespan of assets, reduce the risk of unexpected failures, and minimize downtime and costly repairs.

Implementing formal preventative maintenance programs in school districts can be beneficial for several reasons. Such programs:

- ensure the safety of students and staff by regularly inspecting and maintaining equipment and facilities, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries;

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<sup>4</sup> The operations department at Aberdeen did not provide benchmark data for this report.

- offer long-term cost savings by addressing minor issues before they escalate and become expensive to fix and thus extending the lifespan of equipment and facilities. Moreover, well-maintained assets are more efficient, reducing energy and utility bills, increasing productivity, and minimizing downtime;
- facilitate compliance with regulations and standards, ensuring schools meet safety and operational requirements. Examples of these regulations and standards include the Environmental Protection Agency Healthy School Environments and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook. Others can be found on the Mississippi Department of Education’s website ([www.mdek12.org/OSOS/SBG](http://www.mdek12.org/OSOS/SBG)); and,
- help build a positive reputation within the community by maintaining well-kept facilities and equipment.

All districts should implement preventative maintenance programs based on available resources. Of the 49 districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 31 (63%) did not have a formal preventative maintenance program.

### **Implementation of an Energy Management Program**

**Of the 49 school districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 31 (63%) did not participate in an energy management program.**

An energy management program that involves principals and facility leaders could lead to savings and environmental sustainability. School districts should consider implementing their own behavior-based energy management programs for cost, control, and staff engagement reasons. Hiring an outside energy management company can be expensive, while self-implementing programs can be more cost-effective because they use existing staff and resources. A behavior-based energy management program can be implemented in five basic steps: form a team to oversee the program; conduct an energy audit; develop an energy management plan; educate staff and students; and continuously monitor energy consumption, along with cost savings.

Self-implementation of such programs grants districts greater control over the process and outcomes, allowing them to tailor the programs to their specific needs and goals. Additionally, behavior-based energy management programs engage staff and students, fostering sustainable behavior change and buy-in from the school community. Overall, self-implementing a behavior-based energy management program can be a viable and effective option for school districts that have the resources to do so. If implementing an energy management program is beyond the current resources of a school district, the district may be able to coordinate with a local energy provider for guidance and help in reducing and managing energy consumption.

Of the 49 districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 31 (63%) did not have an energy management program.

### **Administration of a Formal Annual Facilities Assessment**

**Of the 49 school districts reporting FY 2023 operations data, 18 (37%) did not conduct a formal facilities assessment each year. Such assessments are intended to ensure building safety and can assist administrators in prioritizing repairs and upgrades.**

Regular facility assessments demonstrate proactive and responsible practices by school districts to ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for students and faculty. Regular assessments of school facilities identify potential infrastructure issues such as outdated electrical or HVAC systems, structural damage, and safety hazards. School districts can effectively prioritize and plan needed repairs and upgrades by understanding these issues prior to need. Facility assessments can provide information to use in a preventative maintenance program. Additionally, these assessments contribute to long-term cost savings by addressing minor issues before they escalate into more significant and costly problems. Regular annual assessments reduce resource needs and ensure that any changes are noted early.

If resources do not allow for annual assessments, districts should define the shortest time interval beyond one year that resources will allow for and pre-schedule assessments to ensure that they are completed.

Of the 49 school districts reporting FY 2023 operations benchmark data, 18 (37%) did not conduct formal facilities assessments each year. Of the 18 districts that did not conduct annual assessments, seventeen reported conducting assessments on an as-needed basis and one district reported conducting assessments every four to five years.

## Conclusions Regarding Districts' Collection of Key Performance Indicators for Use in Managing Operations

Key performance indicators in operations include districtwide effectiveness measures such as custodial cost per student and indicators that focus on the districts' operations departments. Inconsistencies between districts when recording operations expenses can make comparisons between districts difficult. For example, 22 of the 49 reporting districts reported no expenses in Other Operations Costs. How these districts accounted for the expenses that the other 27 districts reported as Other Operations Costs is unknown, but such differences could cause a district to look more efficient or less efficient in one key performance indicator than other districts. Therefore, it is essential to consider all key performance indicators together; one indicator should not be viewed as an overall performance measure by itself.

This study included a review of the following key performance indicators in the area of operations:

- total operations expenses as a percentage of total district expenses;
- maintenance and operations cost per student;
- custodial cost per square foot;
- custodial cost per student;
- custodial supply cost per square foot;
- square footage per custodian;
- maintenance cost per square foot;
- average number of days to complete a maintenance work order;
- maintenance workload (square footage per maintenance technician);
- acreage per groundskeeper;
- square footage per student; and,
- square footage per school.

Forty-nine of the 50 districts reviewed provided the above-listed performance data for FY 2023, either in full or in part.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The operations department at Aberdeen school district did not provide performance data for this report.



## Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses

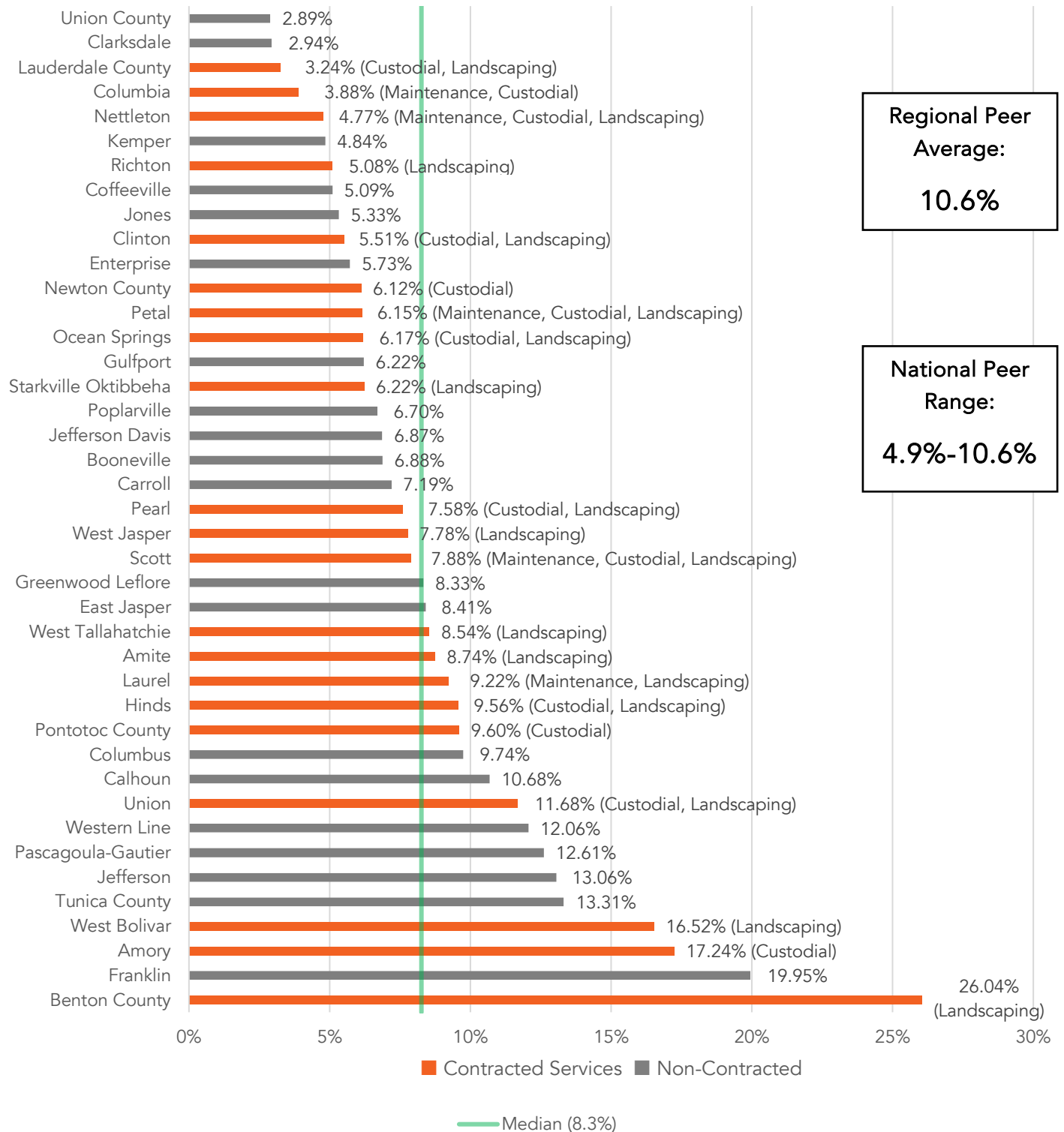
Of the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the districts' 8.3% median total operations expenses as a percentage of total district expenses was below the regional peer average of 10.6% and near the midpoint of the national peer range of 4.9% to 10.6%.

Total operations expenses as a percentage of total district expenses varies among districts based on several factors (e.g., square footage of facilities, number of students, facility age/condition). Due to the circumstances of each district, this measure should not be used as a sole determinant of whether spending in the area of operations is appropriate.

As shown in Exhibit 1 on page 9, for the reporting districts, total operations expenses as a percentage of total district expenses ranged from 2.89% in Union County to 26.04% in Benton County. Although unable to confirm such, the assessment team believes that some districts included construction costs in total operations expenses and therefore total operations expenses for some districts may be distorted by these non-recurring expenses. Accordingly, information in this exhibit should not be used to infer that a district's operations expenses are excessive.

Effective resource allocation and operational efficiency rely on a clear assessment of total operational expenses. Three districts did not provide the data needed to determine the total operations expenses. Additionally, six districts reported questionable data and were excluded from the data in Exhibit 1, as the data could not be clarified. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 1 on page 9.

## Exhibit 1: Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The median in this exhibit represents the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, South Pike, and Webster data districts did not provide data. Claiborne, Forest, North Bolivar, North Tippah, South Delta, and Tupelo provided questionable data and were therefore excluded from the exhibit.

Note: For districts that contract out their operations, the types of services reported as being contracted are listed in parentheses.

## Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student

Of the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the \$1,193 median maintenance and operations cost per student was below the regional average of \$1,375 and near the lower end of the national peer range of \$953 to \$1,805.

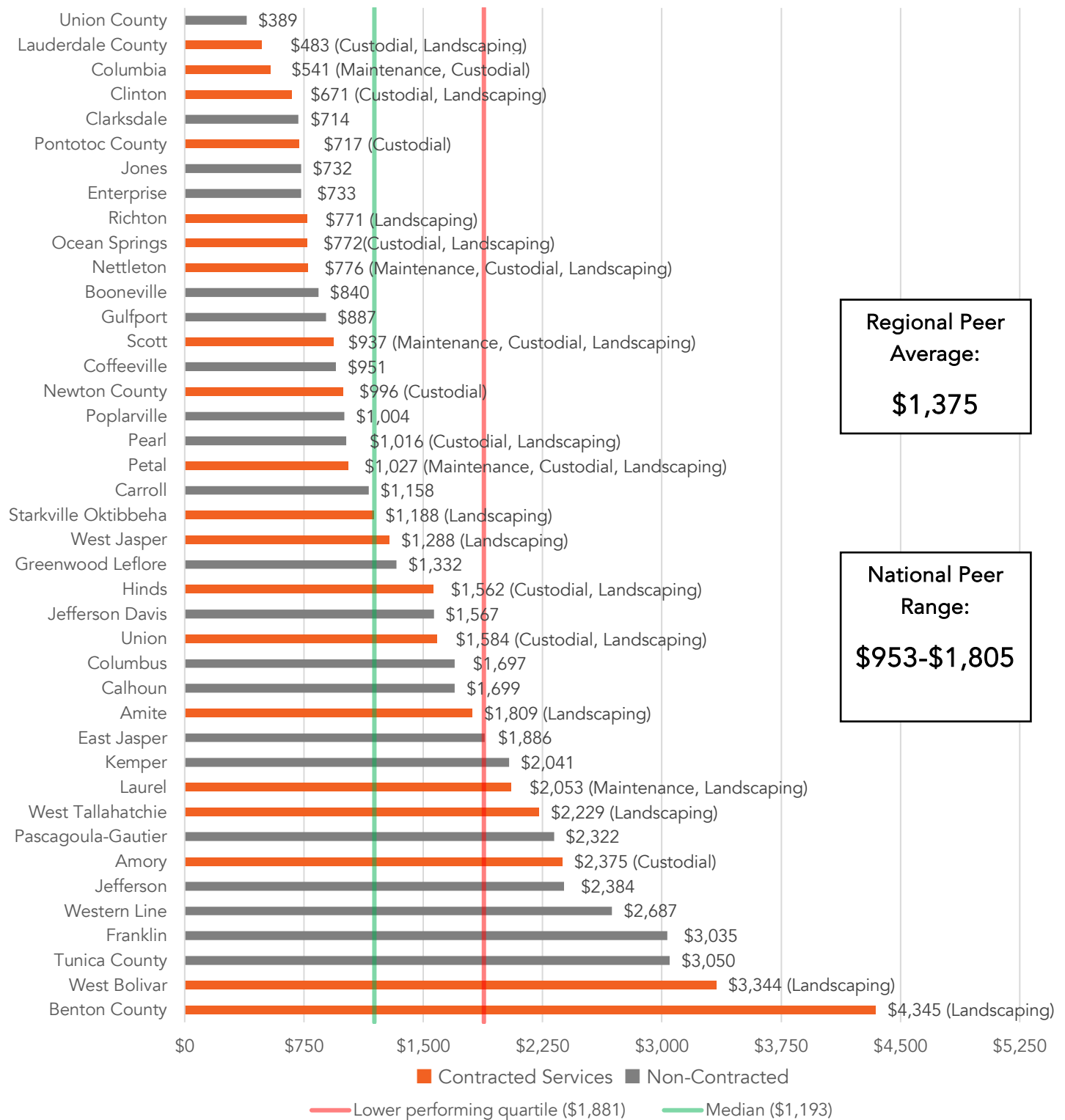
The maintenance and operations cost per student measure encompasses a wide range of costs—custodial, groundskeeping, routine maintenance, and both minor and major renovations and projects. Costs vary significantly between districts, primarily due to the number of capital projects districts have undertaken. Districts should use this measure in combination with other measures included in this report to assess efficiency.

As shown in Exhibit 2 on page 11, for the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, maintenance and operations cost per student ranged from \$389 in Union County to \$4,345 in Benton County.

As in Exhibit 1 on page 9, because the data in this exhibit could possibly include construction costs, the maintenance and operations cost per student could be distorted by including these non-recurring expenses. Accordingly, information in this exhibit alone should not be used to infer that a district's operations and maintenance cost per student is excessive.

Three districts did not provide the data needed to determine the maintenance and operations cost per student and another three districts do not separate their maintenance costs from their custodial costs. Additionally, three districts reported questionable data and were therefore excluded from the data in Exhibit 2, as the data could not be clarified. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 2 on page 11.

## Exhibit 2: Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, South Pike, and Webster did not provide data. Claiborne, North Bolivar, and South Delta do not separate their maintenance costs from their custodial costs and were therefore excluded from the exhibit. Forest, North Tippah, and Tupelo provided questionable data and were therefore excluded from the exhibit.

Note: For districts that contract out their operations, the types of services the districts reporting as being contracted are in parentheses.

## Custodial Cost per Square Foot

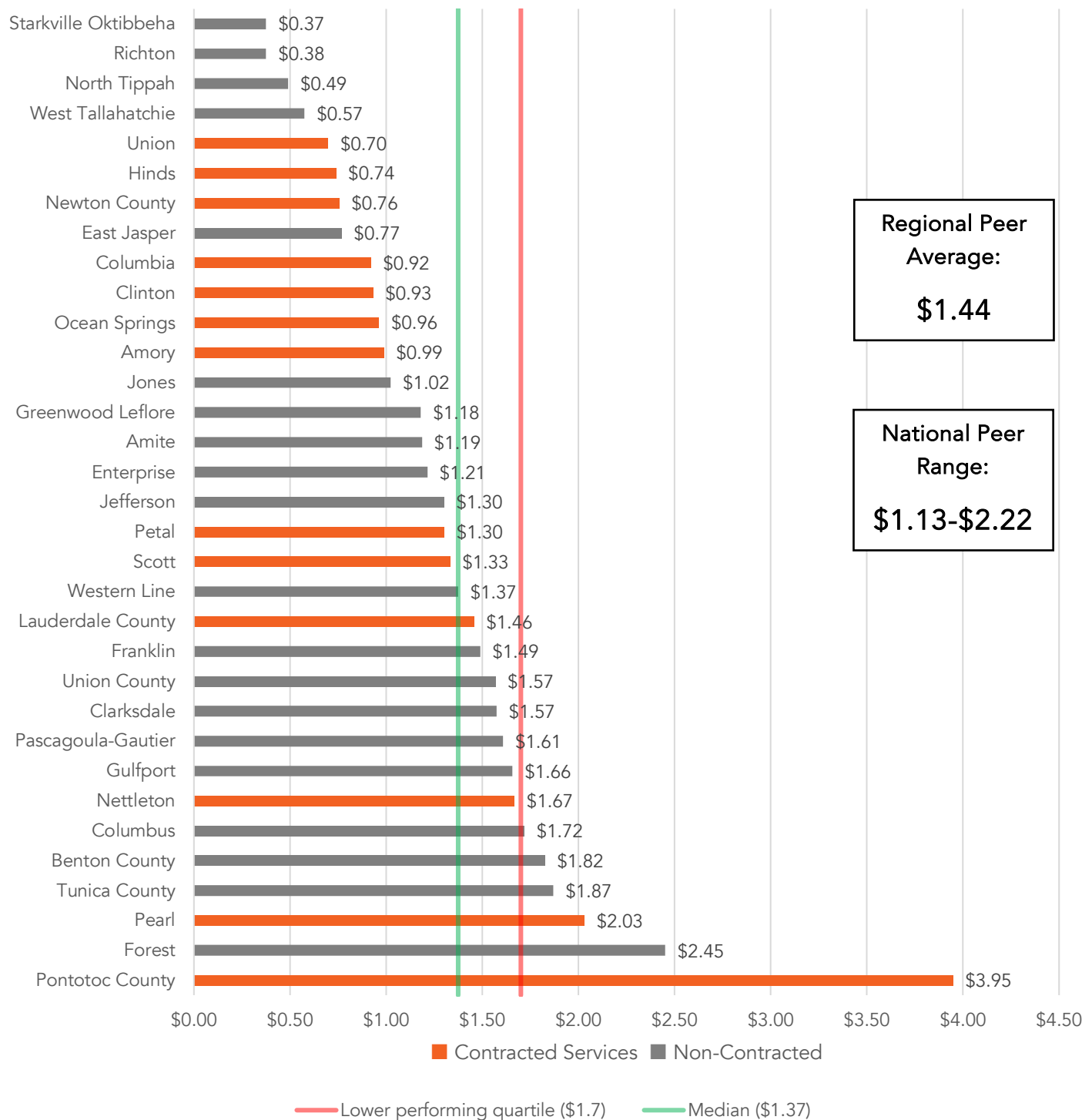
Of the districts reporting FY 2023 custodial costs and square footage, the median \$1.37 custodial cost per square foot was below the regional peer average of \$1.44 and on the lower end of the national peer range of \$1.13 to \$2.22. Thus overall, responding districts' custodial cost per square foot compared favorably to that of regional and national peers.

A district's custodial cost per square foot may be used to evaluate the cost efficiency of custodial services and should be viewed in relationship to costs per student and supply cost per square foot.

As shown in Exhibit 3 on page 13, for districts that used an outside contractor, the custodial cost per square foot ranged from \$0.70 in Union to \$3.95 in Pontotoc County. For districts that used district personnel for custodial services, custodial cost per square foot ranged from \$0.37 in Starkville Oktibbeha to \$2.45 in Forest. District officials can compare the custodial cost per square foot for their district to that of similar districts and explore opportunities to improve custodial efficiencies to reduce costs while maintaining cleanliness standards.

Thirteen districts did not provide either the number of total square feet maintained or total annual custodial costs or both. Additionally, three districts do not separate their maintenance costs from their custodial costs and were therefore excluded from Exhibit 3. One district provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified and is also excluded from the exhibit. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 3 on page 13.

### Exhibit 3: Custodial Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Booneville, Calhoun, Carroll, Coffeeville, Jefferson Davis, Kemper, Laurel, Poplarville, South Pike, Webster, West Bolivar, and West Jasper districts did not provide data. Claiborne, North Bolivar, and South Delta do not separate their maintenance costs from their custodial costs and were therefore excluded from the exhibit. Tupelo provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified; therefore, Tupelo is excluded from the exhibit.

### Custodial Cost per Student

Of the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the approximately \$172 median custodial cost per student was below the regional peer average of \$313 and below the national peer range of \$213 to \$391. Thus overall, the cohort's custodial cost per student compared favorably to that of regional and national peers.

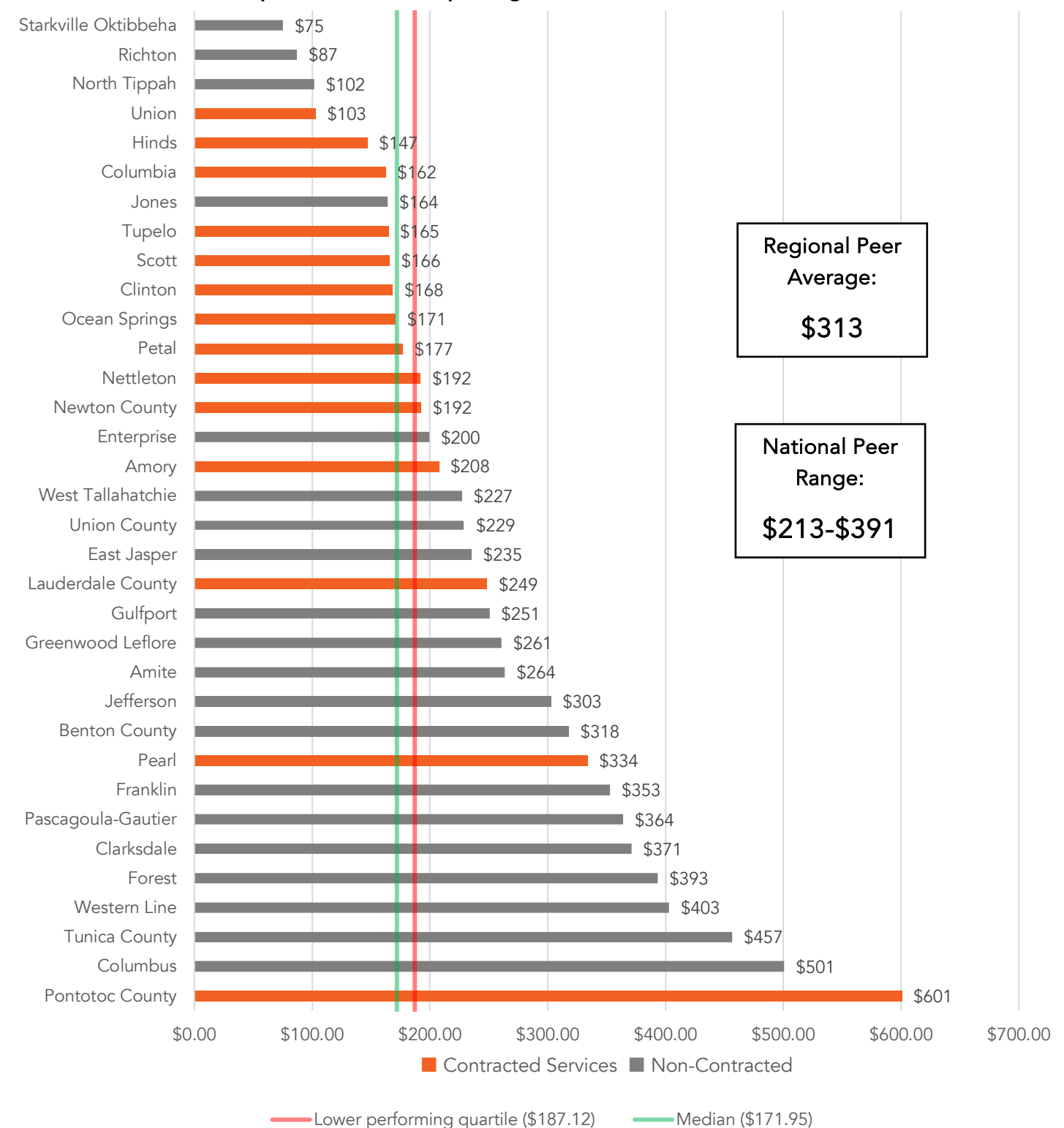
The custodial cost per student measure is important for evaluating the cost efficiency of custodial services and should be viewed in relationship to costs per square foot and supply cost per square foot.

As shown in Exhibit 4 on page 15, of the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, for districts that used a third-party contractor, the custodial cost per student ranged from \$103 in Union to \$601 in Pontotoc County. For districts that use district personnel for custodial services, the custodial cost per student ranged from \$75 in Starkville Oktibbeha to \$501 in Columbus. The wide range of custodial costs per student suggests that some districts have opportunities to lower custodial costs by reviewing staffing and/or purchasing procedures.

Thirteen districts did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial cost per student. Additionally, three districts do not separate their maintenance costs from their custodial costs and were therefore excluded from Exhibit 4. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 4 on page 15.



#### Exhibit 4: Custodial Cost per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Booneville, Calhoun, Carroll, Coffeeville, Jefferson Davis, Kemper, Laurel, Poplarville, South Pike, Webster, West Bolivar, and West Jasper districts did not provide data. Claiborne, North Bolivar, and South Delta do not separate their maintenance and custodial costs and were therefore excluded from the exhibit.

## Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot

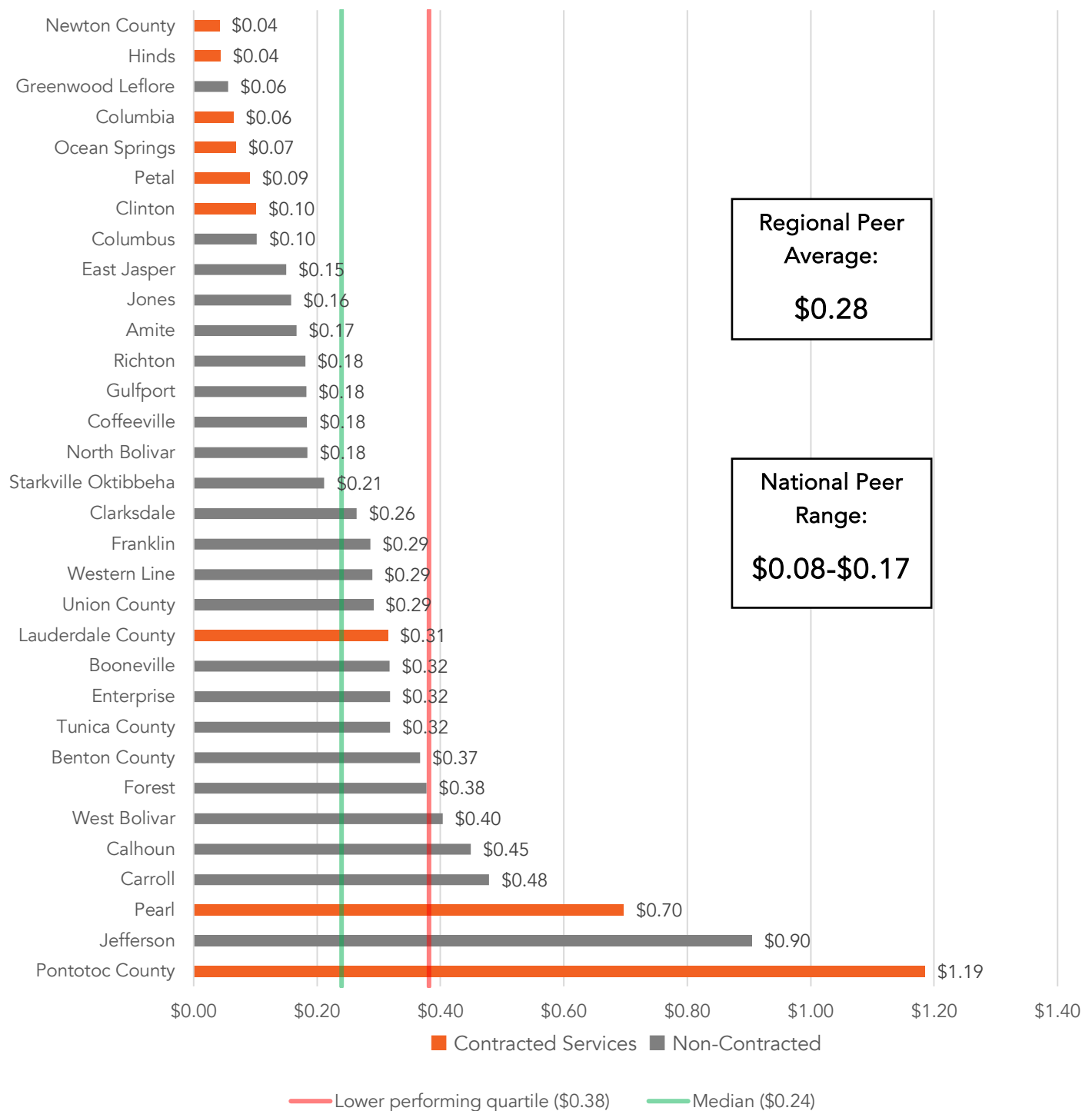
Of the districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the \$0.24 median custodial supply cost per square foot was below the regional peer average of \$0.28 but above the national peer range of \$0.08 to \$0.17. Thus even though the reporting districts' custodial supply cost per square foot compared favorably to that of regional peers, 21 of the reporting districts' custodial supply cost per square foot was above the upper end of the national peer range.

The custodial supply cost per square foot measure can be used to determine whether improvements should be made in the area of custodial operations in order to reduce costs. It should be considered along with the overall custodial cost per square foot and custodial cost per student.

As shown in Exhibit 5 on page 17, of the reporting districts, nine districts used an outside contractor for custodial services and reported custodial supply costs per square foot ranged from \$0.04 in Newton County and Hinds to \$1.19 in Pontotoc County. For districts that used district personnel for custodial services, custodial supply cost per square foot ranged from \$0.06 in Greenwood Leflore to \$0.90 in Jefferson. The wide range of reported custodial supply cost per square foot indicates that some districts should review custodial supply purchase methods and suppliers, which may result in reduced costs while maintaining cleanliness standards.

Sixteen districts did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial supply cost per square foot. Additionally, two districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and were therefore excluded from Exhibit 5. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 5 on page 17.

## Exhibit 5: Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Amory, Claiborne, Kemper, Laurel, Nettleton, North Tippah, Pascagoula-Gautier, Poplarville, Scott, South Delta, South Pike, Union, Webster, West Jasper, and West Tallahatchie districts did not provide data. Jefferson Davis and Tupelo provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified; therefore, these districts were not included in this exhibit.

## Square Footage per Custodian

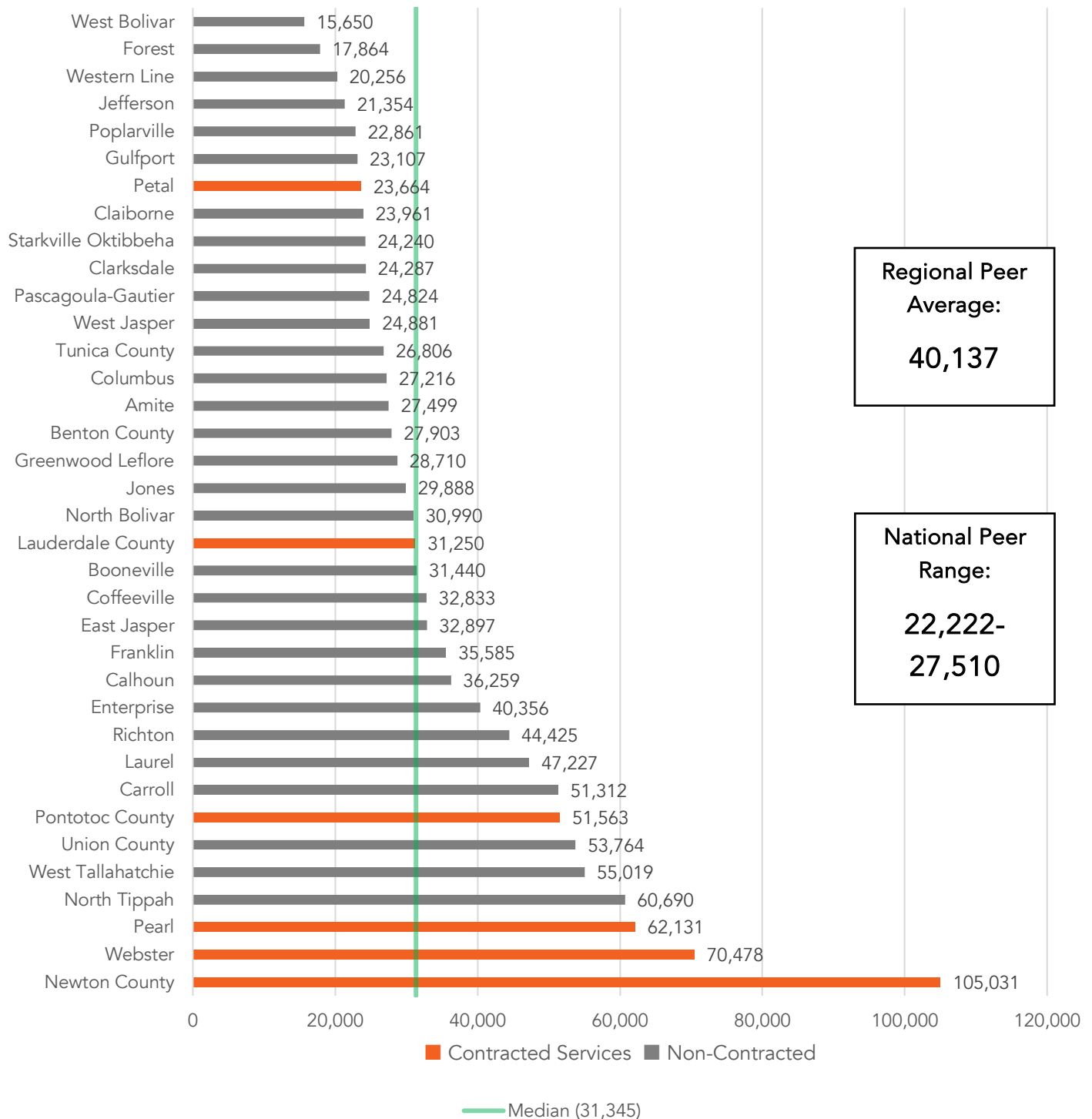
For districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the 31,345 median square footage per custodian was below the regional peer average of 40,137 square feet but above the upper end of the national peer range of 22,222 to 27,510 square feet. Thus, custodians in reporting districts were responsible for less square footage than those of regional peers but for more square footage than those of national peers.

The square footage per custodian measure is important for evaluating the efficiency of a district's custodial services and can help in assessing staffing levels. However, this measure should not be used as the sole determinant for staffing decisions and each district's unique circumstances should be considered.

As shown in Exhibit 6 on page 19, square footage per custodian in reporting districts ranged from 15,650 in West Bolivar to 105,031 in Newton County. Given the wide range of square footage per custodian, some districts may have an opportunity to improve efficiency and lower costs by reviewing staffing levels.

Eight districts did not provide the data needed to determine the square footage per custodian. Additionally, six districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and thus was not included in the exhibit. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 6 on page 19.

## Exhibit 6: Square Footage per Custodian for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The median in this exhibit represents the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Amory, Clinton, Columbia, Nettleton, Ocean Springs, Scott, and South Pike districts did not provide data. Hinds, Jefferson Davis, Kemper, South Delta, Union, and Tupelo districts provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified and thus these districts were not included in the exhibit.

## Maintenance Cost per Square Foot

For districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the \$4.27 median maintenance cost per square foot was higher than the regional peer average of \$3.50 and higher than the \$1.02 to \$1.74 national peer range. Thus overall, the reporting districts spent more on maintenance costs per square foot than did regional peers and national peers.

District officials can use the maintenance cost per square foot measure to determine whether improvements should be made in maintenance operations in order to reduce costs. This measure should be considered along with other maintenance workload measures such as the average number of days to complete a maintenance work order and square footage per maintenance technician.

As shown in Exhibit 7 on page 21, maintenance cost per square foot ranged from \$0.77 in Pontotoc County to \$10.31 in Amory. Twenty-six districts reported maintenance costs above the \$4.27 median.

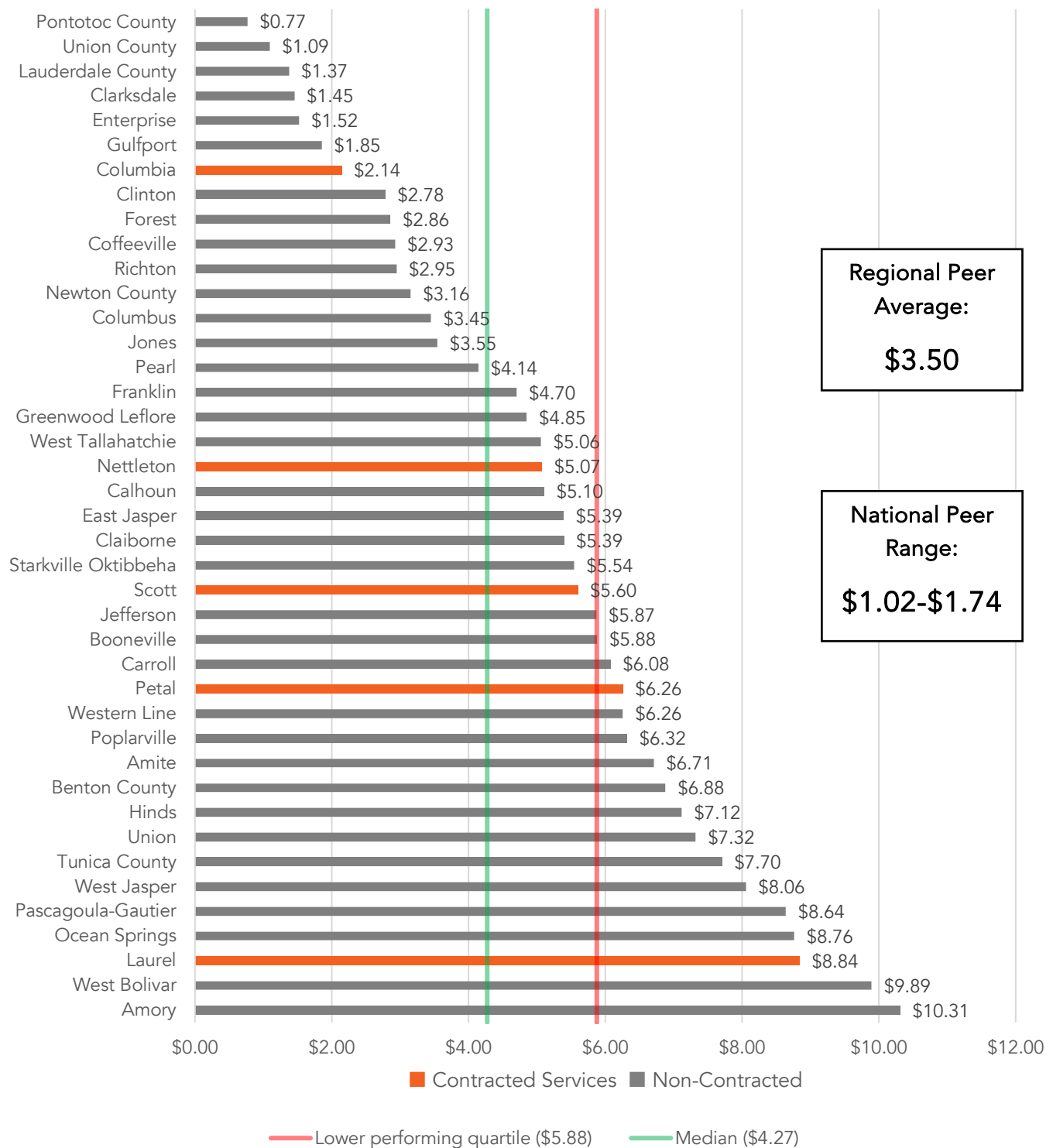
Four districts did not provide the data needed to determine the maintenance cost per square foot. Additionally, five districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and was therefore excluded from Exhibit 7. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 7 on page 21.

Typically, "maintenance" suggests small repairs and preventative maintenance. Under the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Accounting Manual's Function codes, "maintenance" includes repairing and replacing facilities and equipment and remodeling or re-roofing projects that maintain a building for its intended purpose.<sup>6</sup> Stakeholders should keep in mind that some districts' reported data could have included costs for more complicated maintenance projects that incurred costs higher than those for basic and preventative maintenance.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/section\\_m\\_m.1\\_expenditures\\_function\\_codes\\_09\\_26\\_24.pdf](https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/section_m_m.1_expenditures_function_codes_09_26_24.pdf).

## Exhibit 7: Maintenance Cost per Square Foot for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, North Bolivar, South Pike, and Webster districts did not provide data. Jefferson Davis, Kemper, North Tippah, South Delta, and Tupelo provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified; thus, these districts were excluded from the exhibit.



### Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order

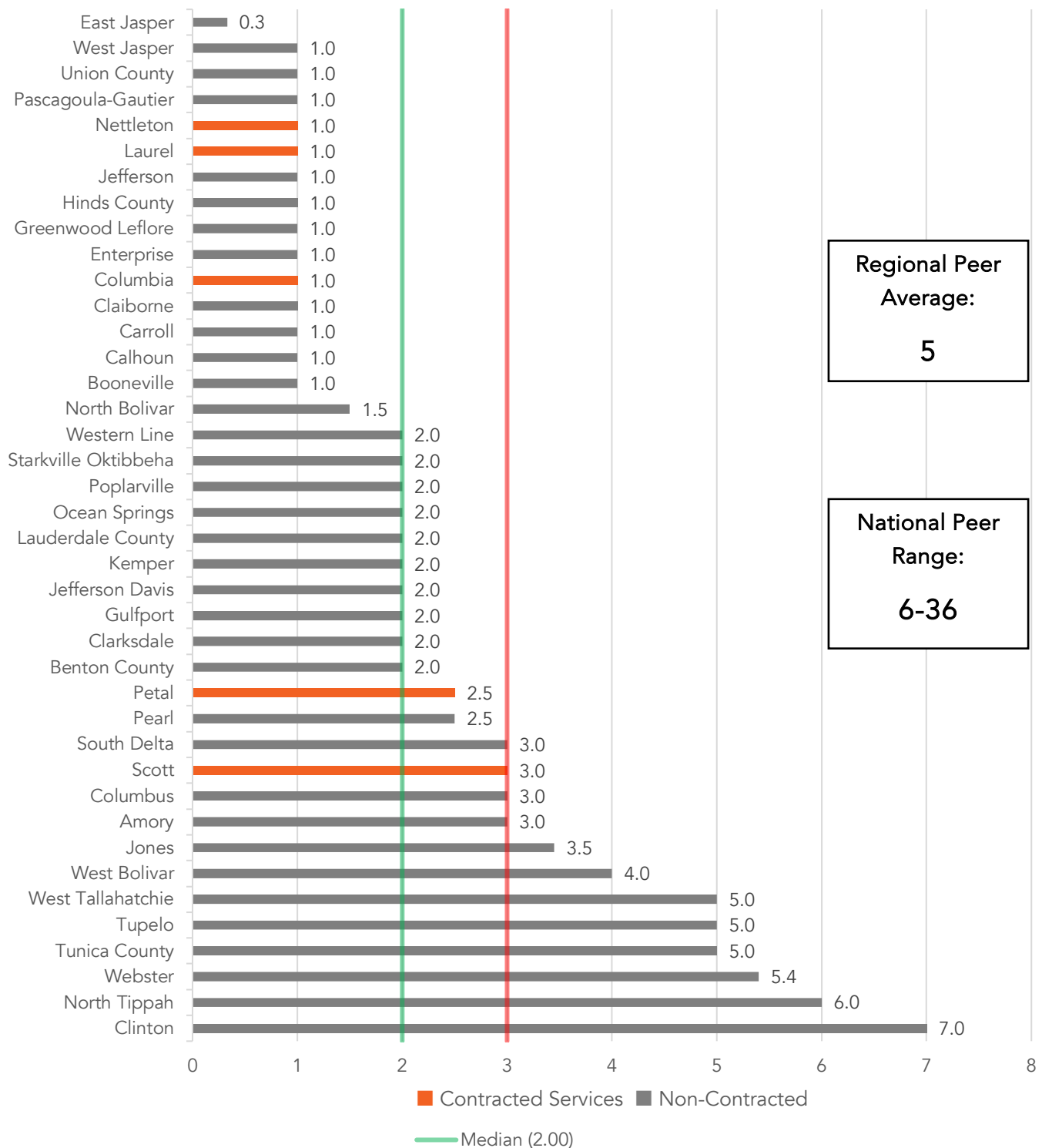
For districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the two-day median average number of days to complete a maintenance work order was lower than the regional peer average of five days and the national peer range of six to 36 days. Thus overall, the reporting districts' maintenance work orders were completed more quickly than those of regional and national peers.

The measure of average number of days to complete a maintenance work order is indicative of a district's efficiency in completing its maintenance responsibilities. District officials have the opportunity to compare their district's data with that reported in Exhibit 8 on page 23, with the goal of improving maintenance services and timeliness.

As shown in Exhibit 8, of the reporting districts, 16 districts reported that the average number of days to complete a maintenance work order was less than the two-day median. Ten districts reported an average of two days and 14 districts reported an average greater than the two-day median. Clinton reported the highest average (seven days).

Ten districts did not provide the data needed to determine the average number of days to complete a maintenance work order. The districts that did not supply the requested data are listed in the note to Exhibit 8 on page 23.

## Exhibit 8: Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



■ ■ The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Amite, Coffeeville, Forest, Franklin, Newton County, Pontotoc County, Richton, South Pike, and Union districts did not provide data.

## Square Footage per Maintenance Technician

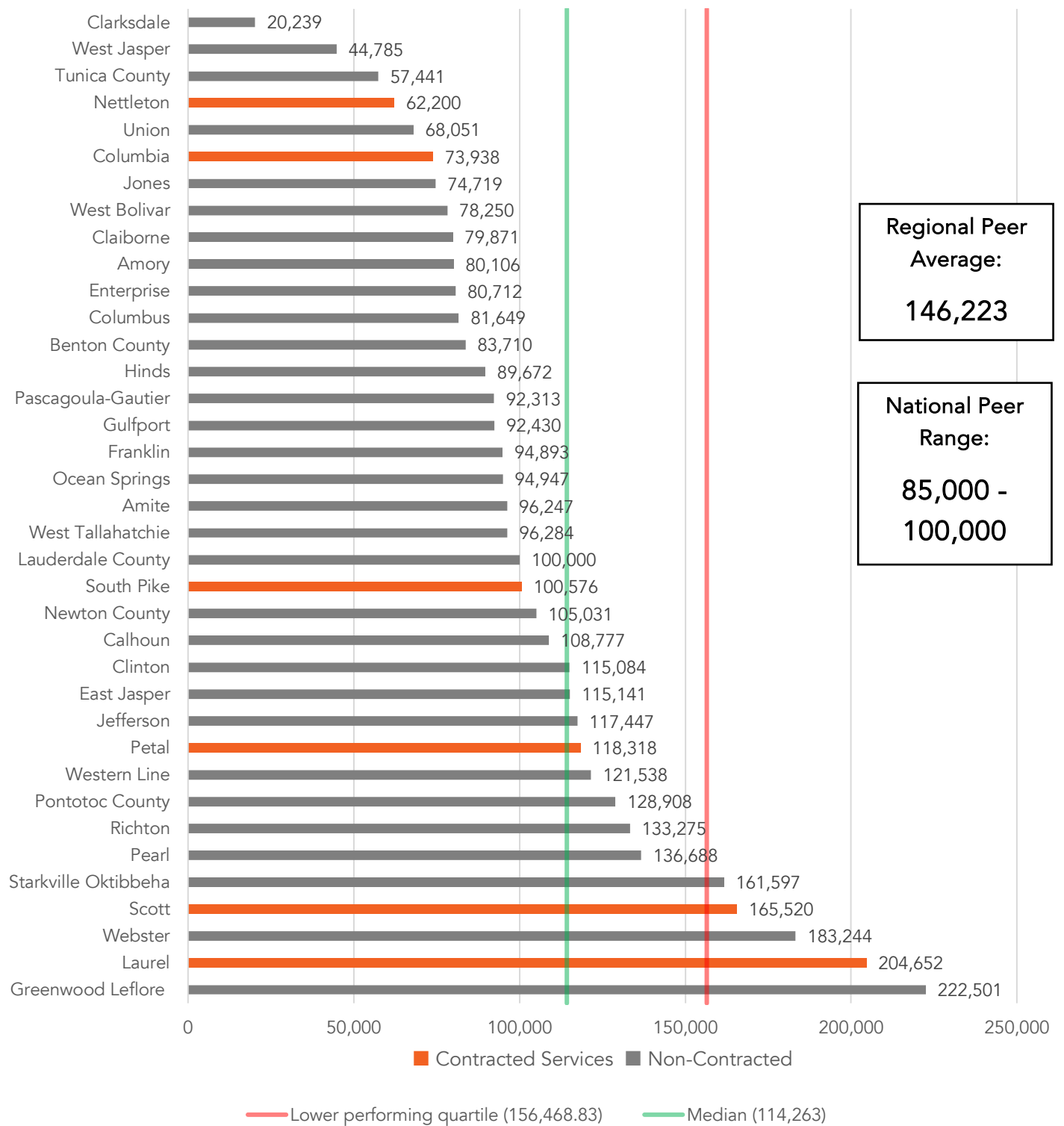
For districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the median of 114,263 square feet per maintenance technician was below the 146,223 square feet per maintenance technician reported by regional peers and above the national peer range of 85,000 to 100,000 square feet per maintenance technician. Thus overall, maintenance technicians for the reporting districts were responsible for more square footage than national peers but for less than regional peers.

The square footage per maintenance technician measure is an important workload measure for evaluating the efficiency of a district's maintenance services and can help in assessing staffing levels. However, this measure should not be used as the sole determinant for staffing decisions and each district's unique circumstances should be considered.

As shown in Exhibit 9 on page 25, square footage per maintenance technician ranged from 20,239 square feet in Clarksdale to 222,501 square feet in Greenwood Leflore. The wide range of square footage per maintenance technician may reflect the differing management philosophies of districts' officials but also offers opportunities to review the maintenance workloads of similar districts and evaluate staffing levels and policies with the goal of improving maintenance efficiencies and services.

Eight districts did not provide the needed data to determine the square footage per maintenance technician. Additionally, five districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and was therefore excluded Exhibit 9. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 9 on page 25.

## Exhibit 9: Square Footage per Maintenance Technician for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The lower performing quartile and the median in this exhibit represent the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Booneville, Carroll, Coffeetown, Forest, North Bolivar, North Tippah, and Poplarville districts did not provide data. Jefferson Davis, Kemper, South Delta, Tupelo, and Union County provided questionable square footage data that was unable to be clarified and was therefore excluded from the exhibit.

### Acreage per Groundskeeper

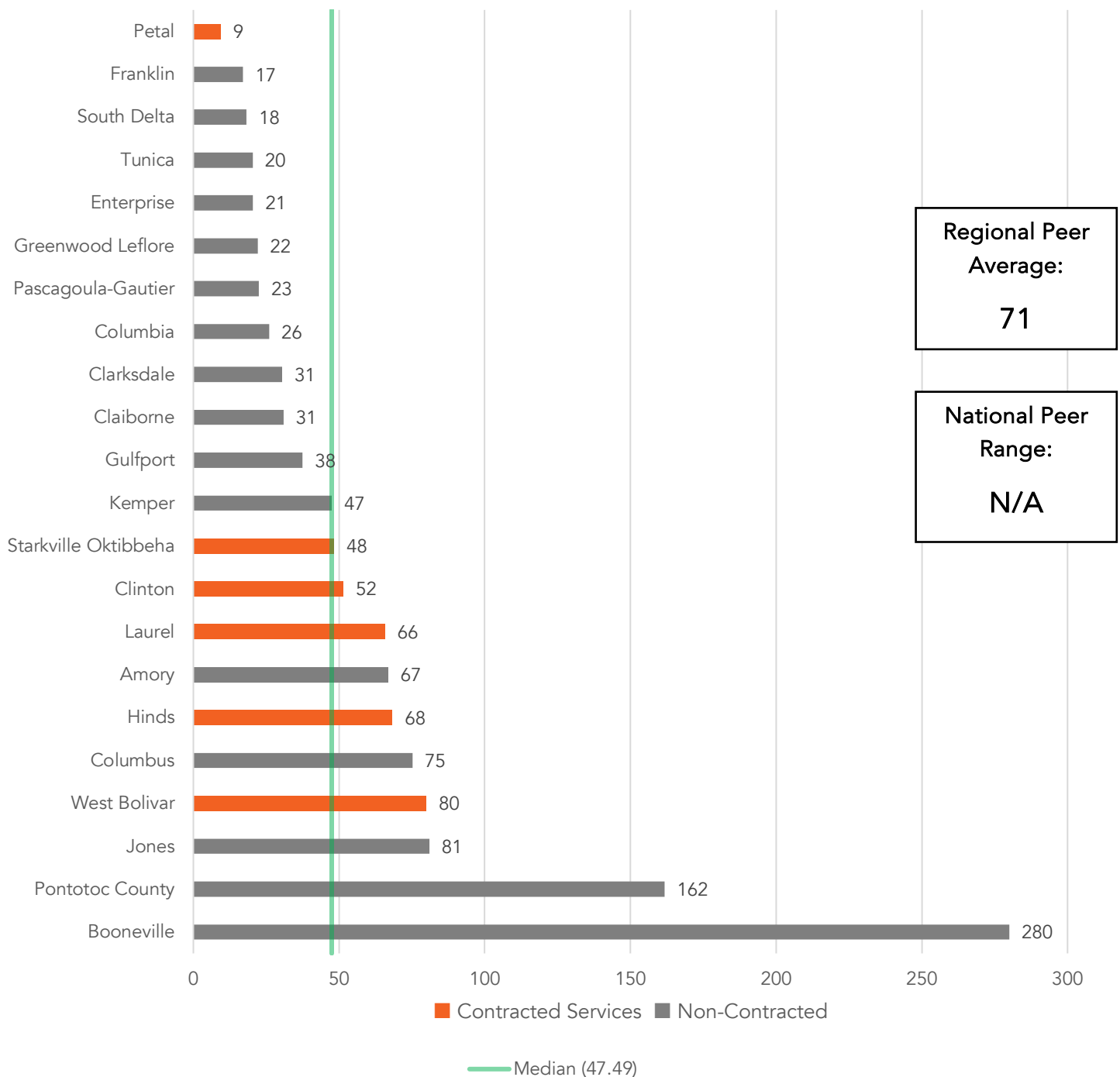
For the 22 districts reporting FY 2023 acres per groundskeeper, the approximately 47.5 acres per groundskeeper median was below the regional peer average of 71 acres. Groundskeepers in 17 reporting districts were responsible for fewer acres than groundskeepers of regional peers. A national peer range for this performance indicator was not available.

The acreage per groundskeeper measure is important for evaluating the efficiency of a district's groundskeeping services and can help in assessing staffing levels. However, this measure should not be used as the sole determinant for staffing decisions and each school district's unique circumstances should be considered.

As shown in Exhibit 10 on page 27, six of the 22 reporting districts used contracted services for groundskeeping services ranging from nine acres per groundskeeper in Petal to 80 acres per groundskeeper in West Bolivar. For the districts that used district personnel, acres per groundskeeper ranged from 17 acres in Franklin to 280 acres in Booneville.

The remaining 28 districts did not report either the total acres on school campuses or the number of groundskeeper FTEs. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 10 on page 27. Districts should have such information readily available; without this information, stakeholders are unable to assess this aspect of districts' operations.

**Exhibit 10: Acres per Groundskeeper for Reporting Districts for FY 2023**



The median in this exhibit represents the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Amite, Benton County, Calhoun, Carroll, Coffeeville, East Jasper, Forest, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lauderdale County, Nettleton, Newton County, North Bolivar, North Tippah, Ocean Springs, Pearl, Poplarville, Richton, Scott, South Pike, Tupelo, Union, Union County, Webster, West Jasper, West Tallahatchie, and Western Line did not provide data.

## Square Footage per Student

For districts reporting FY 2023 operations key performance data, the square footage per student median was approximately 203 square feet per student. Regional and national peer data were not available.

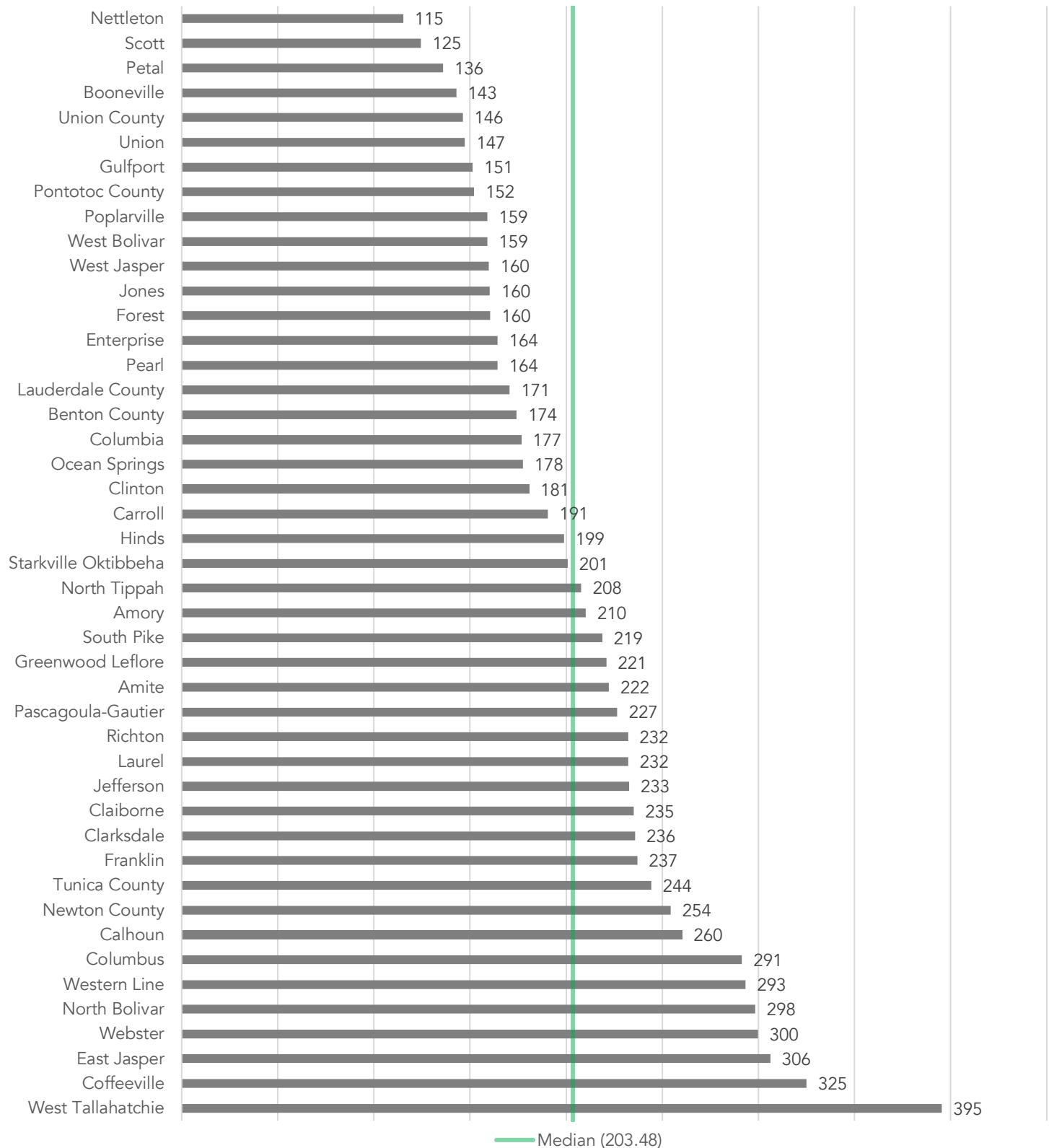
The square footage per student measure can assist districts in evaluating the utilization of space across district facilities and whether there are opportunities for consolidation, optimization, or repurposing facilities. Such efforts could help ensure financial resources are allocated effectively and sustainably.

As shown in Exhibit 11 on page 29, for districts reporting on this measure, median square footage per student was approximately 203. Square footage per student ranged from 115 in Nettleton to 395 in West Tallahatchie. The wide range of square footage per student indicates that some districts may be experiencing overcrowding, while other districts may have excessive square footage and could explore the viability of consolidating underutilized facilities. When considering consolidating facilities, district administrators must consider the size of the district, location of schools, how long students would have to ride a bus if schools are consolidated, and the number of schools in operation. For example, Coffeerville reported the highest square footage per student, but the district only operates two schools (i.e., a combined elementary/middle school and a high school). Also, even if a district does not use a classroom, empty classrooms appear in the total square footage maintained by the district and increase the square footage per student. Therefore, square footage per student should not be used as a sole determining factor when considering the efficiency of utilization of school facilities.

One district (Aberdeen) did not provide square footage data. Failure to respond to requests for basic information such as total square footage of school facilities possibly reflects district officials' insufficient oversight of such issues and may raise questions in the minds of stakeholders regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of other administrative functions. Additionally, four districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and were therefore excluded from Exhibit 11. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 11 on page 29.



## Exhibit 11: Square Footage per Student for Reporting Districts for FY 2023



The median in this exhibit represents the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen district did not provide data. Jefferson Davis, Kemper, South Delta, and Tupelo provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified and was therefore excluded from the exhibit.

### Average Square Footage per School

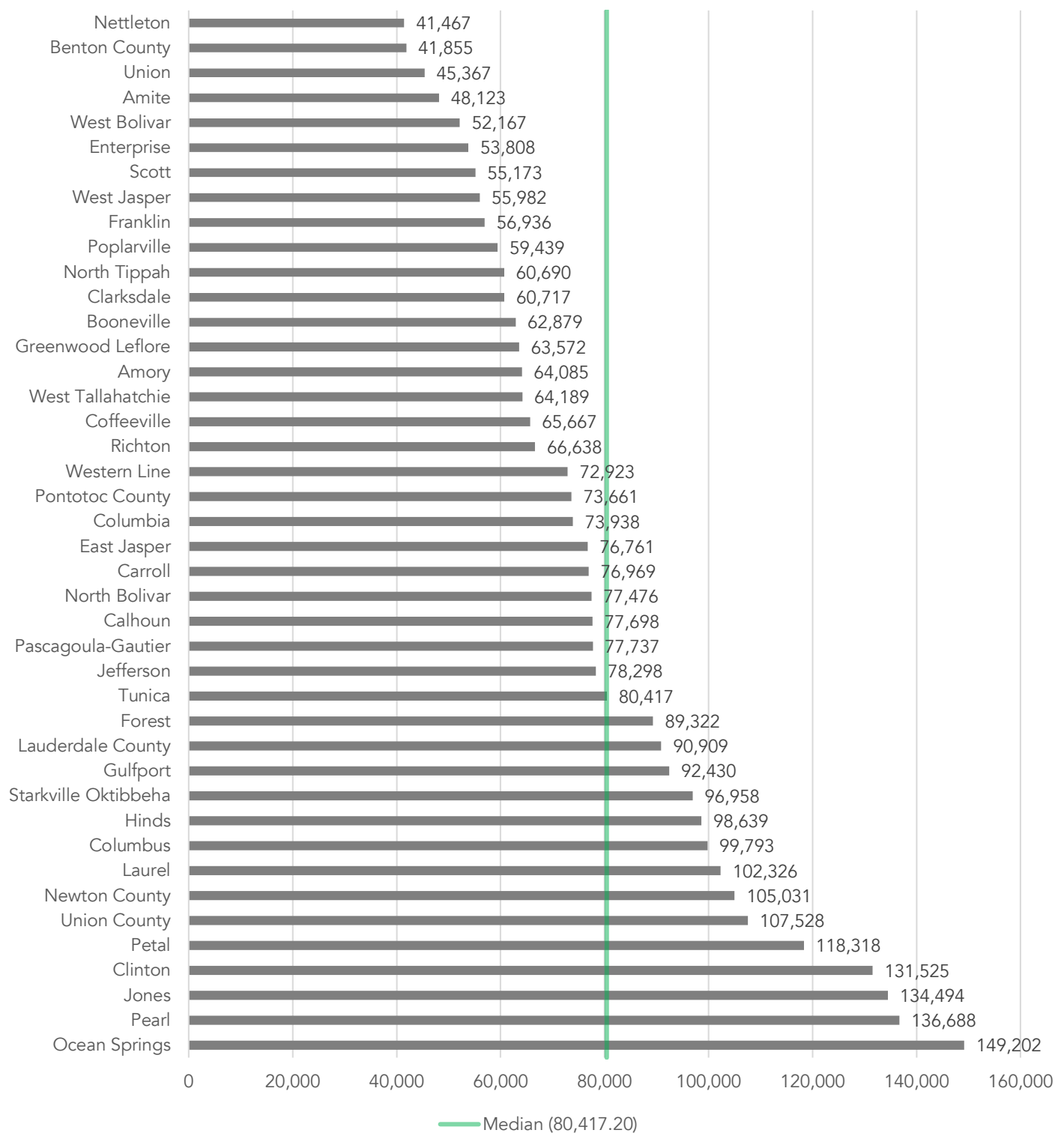
For the districts reporting FY 2023 average square footage per school, the median was approximately 80,417. Regional and national data was not available.

The average square footage per school measure is a complementary measure to square footage per student and can provide further information regarding resource distribution and facility utilization.

As shown in Exhibit 12 on page 31, for the districts reporting FY 2023 average square footage per school, Nettleton reported the lowest average square footage per school with 41,467 square feet, and Ocean Springs reported the highest with 149,202 square feet.

Four districts did not provide the data needed to determine the average square footage per school. Additionally, four districts reported questionable data that could not be clarified and was therefore excluded from Exhibit 12. These districts are listed in the note to Exhibit 12 on page 31.

**Exhibit 12: Square Footage per School for Reporting Districts for FY 2023**



The median in this exhibit represents the above reporting districts as well as an additional 80 Mississippi districts that were part of separate reviews over the same period. (See Introduction on page 2.)

Note: Aberdeen, Claiborne, South Pike, and Webster districts did not provide data. Jefferson Davis, Kemper, South Delta, and Tupelo provided questionable data that was unable to be clarified and was therefore excluded from the exhibit.

## Conclusions Regarding How Districts' Data Collection May Impact Operations Costs

This analysis does not include several districts' data in the analyses of key performance indicators because the districts either did not provide the requested information or the information had to be excluded because it could not be clarified. Thus, those districts' capability to compare their operations costs and efficiency with those of other districts is compromised.

As noted previously, Level Data selected 50 of Mississippi's 138 traditional public school districts with a range of characteristics, including geographic location, enrollment, and grades based on the statewide accountability system, to provide FY 2023 data on their operations functions for this analysis. Forty-nine of the fifty districts provided some of the requested benchmark data and some of the performance data, either in part or in full. However, as with some of the other Glimpse K12/Level Data reports in this series, large gaps in the data due to districts' inability or unwillingness to provide requested information affected conclusions on educational operations costs within this cohort. For example:

- 16 districts (32%) did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial cost per student or reported data that could not be clarified and therefore was excluded from the analysis (see Exhibit 4 on page 15);
- 18 districts (36%) did not provide the data needed to determine the custodial supply cost per square foot or provided data that could not be clarified and therefore was excluded from the analysis (see Exhibit 5 on page 17); and,
- 28 districts (56%) did not provide the total number of acres on their school campuses or the number of groundskeeper FTEs (see Exhibit 10 on page 27).

If districts are unable or unwilling to collect or provide accurate information on key indicators, those districts' administrators will not have the complete range of information needed to make fully informed decisions regarding their districts' operations functions. Therefore, those administrators' ability to ensure and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of district operations is compromised.

## Conclusions Regarding Cost Savings

Based on FY 2023 data reported, responding districts could realize annual projected potential cost savings of up to approximately \$17 million by reducing costs associated with their custodial, maintenance, and/or groundskeeping functions.

Sixteen reporting districts have the potential to realize up to a total of approximately \$17 million in savings in their custodial, maintenance, and groundskeeping functions by bringing costs in line with peer group averages, implementing preventative maintenance programs, implementing annual facility assessments, and bringing square footage per custodian and maintenance technician and acreage upkeep per groundskeeper in line with peer averages. See Exhibit 13 beginning on page 34 for details for each district. While the reported data suggests the potential for cost savings for these districts, each district's administration should carefully review the data and recommendations specific to their district, consider the circumstances of their district, and consider safety and cleanliness standards while contemplating cost reductions.

Nineteen districts did not provide the necessary data to determine potential cost savings (see Exhibit 13 on page 34 for a summary) or submitted data that was questionable. Without reliable data from these 19 school districts, the study cannot fully gauge potential cost savings or draw comprehensive conclusions. This gap weakens statewide recommendations and underscores the need for more consistent data collection and/or reporting compliance to guide future decisions.

Level Data made recommendations for the additional 15 districts that provided information, although no potential cost savings were identified.

### Exhibit 13: Projected Potential Cost Savings in Reporting Districts based on FY 2023 Data Reported

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
Aberdeen	Indeterminate	The district did not provide the data to identify cost savings nor did the district provide relevant benchmarking information.
Amite	< or =\$ 60,946	<p>Operations costs are slightly higher than those of state peers and the national average. A review of square footage per student shows slightly higher square footage per student, but not high enough to point to any potential for school consolidation. Staff head counts for maintenance are aligned with or below all peers. There could be an opportunity to reduce custodial supply costs.</p> <p>The district should review current supply costs and inventory levels to bring costs into alignment with the average of national peers.</p> <p>Also, the district could see additional savings through the deployment of energy management and preventative maintenance programs.</p>
Amory	< or =\$ 1,960,714	<p>Operations as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Although custodial cost per square footage and per student are lower than most peer group averages, maintenance costs per student and per square foot are higher than state, regional, and national peers. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Since the custodial supply cost was not available, the district might want to consider developing practices to track this cost.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>Also, the district could see additional savings through the deployment of an energy management program.</p>
Benton County	< or =\$ 450,152	The district's operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance costs per student and per square footage are also higher than all peer group averages. Overall custodial cost per square footage and per student was higher than the state median and the regional averages. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>Custodial supply costs are higher than all peer group averages. The costs of custodial processes and supplies should be reviewed to bring those costs in alignment with those of peers.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
Booneville	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Consideration should be given to the implementation of an electronic work order system to support efficiency.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Calhoun	< or =\$ 497,343	<p>The district's operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than the regional and national averages as well as the state median. Maintenance cost per student and maintenance cost per square foot is higher than all peer groups. Custodial costs per square foot and per student are not available. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus areas. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
Carroll	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus areas. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is higher than the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Claiborne	< or = \$ 932,018	<p>The district did not provide the necessary maintenance and custodial cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian and per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. Additionally, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>The district could see additional savings through the deployment of an energy maintenance program.</p>
Clarksdale	---	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend</p>



District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. Additionally, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Clinton	--	<p>The average number of days to complete a work order was above both the state median and regional average. Since the district has implemented an electronic work order system, ongoing data analysis coupled with data-driven goals could improve efficiency and costs.</p>
Coffeeville	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus areas. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>The square footage per student was higher than all peer groups. The district should review current facilities to determine if there is an opportunity to lower operations costs through facility consolidation.</p>
Columbia	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus areas.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average and the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Columbus	< or = \$ 719,118	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than both the state median and the national average. Maintenance cost per student is higher than the state median, regional average, and national average while</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>maintenance cost per square foot is lower than the state median and regional average. Custodian cost per student and per square foot are higher than the state median, the regional average, and the national average. A deeper look at square footage per student shows that the number is higher than that of state peers. The district should review current facilities to determine whether there is an opportunity to lower operations costs through facility consolidation. Supply costs are lower than most peer group averages. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, the acreage per groundskeeper is higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. Square footage per staff member should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>The district should consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Also, the district could see additional savings through the deployment of an energy maintenance program.</p>
East Jasper	< or =\$276,156	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are in line with the state median and lower than the regional average. Maintenance cost per student and square footage are higher than all peer groups while custodial cost per student and square foot are lower than most peer groups. Supply costs are lower than the state median and regional average. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages in some areas, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>A behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>The square footage per student was higher than all peer groups. The district should review current facilities to determine if there is an opportunity to lower operations costs through facility consolidation.</p>
Enterprise	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician and per custodian are higher than all peer group averages. Additionally, the acreage</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Forest	Indeterminate	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses and maintenance/operations cost per student were not included in the report due to questionable data submitted by the district. Custodial costs per student and square foot are higher than all peer group averages. Custodian supply costs are higher than all peer group averages. The district should review these costs to determine whether this data is accurate and whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
Franklin	< or =\$1,708,421	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance cost per student and per square foot are higher than all peer groups while custodial cost per student and per square foot are higher than the state median and the regional peer group average as well. Custodial supply costs are higher than all peer group averages. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability.
Greenwood Leflore	< or =\$ 588,407	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than the national average. Maintenance cost per student and per square foot are higher than the state median and maintenance cost per square foot is higher than all peer group averages. Custodial cost per student is higher than the state median. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>The district's data indicates that maintenance technicians may have a high workload. The acreage per groundskeeper is lower than the state median and the regional average, which is indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>The district could see additional savings through the deployment of an energy management program.</p>
Gulfport	--	The acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Hinds	< or =\$1,796,908	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than both the national average and the state median. Maintenance cost per student is higher than the state median as well as regional and national averages. Maintenance cost per square foot is higher than all peer group averages. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian was indeterminate due to questionable data. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus.</p>
Jefferson	< or =\$1,195,058	The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance costs per student and square footage are also higher than all peer group averages. Custodial costs per student are higher than the state median. Supply costs are higher than all peer group averages. If

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		<p>the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is lower than the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
Jefferson Davis	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the district provided questionable data; therefore, any cost savings related to staffing could not be determined. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Jones	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Also, consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. Square footage per staff member should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Kemper	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the district provided questionable data; therefore, any cost savings related to staffing could not be determined. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Lauderdale County	--	To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. The district should also consider conducting an annual facilities assessment to determine areas of need and focus.
Laurel	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary custodial cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than both the state median and the national average. Maintenance cost per student and per square foot are higher than all peer group averages. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian and per maintenance technician are higher than both the state and regional averages. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance and custodial services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability.</p>
Nettleton	--	<p>The district did not provide the necessary custodian cost information to determine potential custodian cost savings.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Newton County	--	<p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian was higher than both the regional average and state median. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should determine if this data is accurate. If it is determined that this data is accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting an annual facilities assessment to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
North Bolivar	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary maintenance and custodial cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting an annual facilities assessment to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
North Tippah	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings. Also, the data submitted was questionable and therefore not used in the cost savings data for this report.</p> <p>To improve energy management, a behavior-based energy management program should be implemented to promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus.</p> <p>The average number of days to complete a work order was above both the state median and regional average. Since the district has implemented an electronic work order system, ongoing data analysis coupled with data-driven goals could improve efficiency and costs.</p>



District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian was higher than both the regional average and state median. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should determine whether this data is accurate. If it is determined that this data is accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Ocean Springs	Indeterminate	<p>The data submitted was questionable and was therefore not used in the cost-savings data for this report.</p> <p>Operations expenditures as a percentage of overall expenditures was lower than all peer group averages. Additionally, the maintenance and operations cost per student, custodial cost per square foot, custodian cost per student, and custodial supply cost per square foot were lower than all peer groups. Maintenance cost per square foot was higher than all peer groups.</p>
Pascagoula-Gautier	< or =\$ 2,411,125	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than those of all peer groups. A deeper look at square footage per student shows that the number is higher than those of state peers. The district should review current facilities to determine whether there is an opportunity to lower operations costs through facility consolidation. Custodial supply cost was not available. Overall custodial cost per student and per square foot was higher than both state and regional peers. Custodial processes and purchasing of supplies should be reviewed to bring costs in alignment with those of peers.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Pearl	--	<p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian was higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve energy management, a behavior-based energy management program should be implemented to promote environmental sustainability.</p>



District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
Petal	--	<p>To improve energy management, a behavior-based energy management program should be implemented to promote environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Pontotoc County	< or =\$1,705,265	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer groups. Custodial cost per student and per square footage are also higher than all peer group averages. Additionally, custodian supply costs are higher than all peer group averages. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is higher than both the state median and the regional average. Additionally, the square footage per custodian was higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability.</p>
Poplarville	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.</p>
Richton	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is higher than both the state and regional averages. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Scott	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is higher than both the state median and regional averages. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
South Delta	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary maintenance and custodial cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>The square footage per maintenance technician was indeterminate due to questionable data. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. The district should also consider conducting an annual facilities assessment to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
South Pike	Indeterminate	The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		The district should consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.
Starkville Oktibbeha	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is higher than both the state median and regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Tunica County	< or =\$1,851,317	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance cost per student is higher than all peer group averages. The data reported relative to maintenance cost per square footage was questionable and therefore could not be used to determine cost savings. Custodial cost per student and per square foot are higher than the state median, the regional average, and the national average. Supply costs are also higher than all peer group averages. The district should review these costs to determine whether there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Also, the district could see additional savings through the deployment of an energy management program.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is lower than the regional average and state median and square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of these services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Tupelo	Indeterminate	<p>The data submitted for operations and maintenance costs, maintenance cost per square foot, custodian cost per square foot, and custodian supply cost was questionable. Therefore, this data was not used in the cost savings data. The district should review these costs to determine if this data is accurate and if there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian and maintenance technician was indeterminate due to questionable data. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Union	< or =\$354,637	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance cost per student is higher than the state median, regional average, and national average and maintenance cost per square foot is higher than all peer group averages. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings. Custodial cost per student and per square footage are below all peer group averages. Supply costs were not provided.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. The district should also consider conducting annual facility assessments to determine areas of need and focus. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than the state median and national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should review the data to determine accuracy.</p> <p>If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance and custodial services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary. The square footage per custodian was indeterminate due to questionable data. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Union County	--	<p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is higher than both the state median and regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance and custodial services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>The square footage per maintenance technician was indeterminate due to questionable data. The district should review the data to determine accuracy. If</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		determined to be accurate, the district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
Webster	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>The average number of days to complete a work order was above both the state median and regional average. Since the district has implemented an electronic work order system, ongoing data analysis coupled with data-driven goals could improve efficiency and costs.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian and per maintenance technician are higher than the state median and regional averages. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance and custodial services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
West Bolivar	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the acreage per groundskeeper is higher than both the state median and the regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. The square footage per custodian and the square footage per maintenance technician are lower than both the state median and the national averages. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of these services to determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Additionally, a behavior-based energy management program involving school principals and facility leaders could promote environmental sustainability. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
West Jasper	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve energy management, a behavior-based energy management program should be implemented to promote environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per maintenance technician is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the</p>

District	Potential Savings	Recommendations
		efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.
West Tallahatchie	Indeterminate	<p>The district did not provide the necessary maintenance and custodial cost information to determine potential cost savings.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is higher than both the state median and regional average. These measures are indicative of low staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of custodial services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p>
Western Line	< or =\$753,583	<p>The operations expenses as a percentage of overall expenses are higher than all peer group averages. Maintenance costs per student and per square footage are also higher than all peer group averages. A deeper look at square footage per student shows that the number is higher than those of state peers. The district should review current facilities to determine whether there is an opportunity to lower operations costs through facility consolidation. Custodial cost per student and custodian supplies are also higher than all peer group averages. The district should review these costs to determine if there are opportunities to align costs with those of its peers. If the district can bring its costs in line with peer averages, it could realize cost savings.</p> <p>Regarding staffing, the square footage per custodian is lower than both the state median and the national average. These measures are indicative of high staffing levels. However, square footage per staff member is only one measure and should be considered in relation to other factors. The district should gather feedback from school and central office staff to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services and determine whether staffing adjustments are necessary.</p> <p>To improve facility management, the district should implement a preventative maintenance program to reduce long-term repair and replacement costs, extend the lifespan of facilities and equipment, and ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Consideration should be given to implementing an electronic work order system to support efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>&lt; or =\$17,261,168</b>	

## Recommendations

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1. In FY 2026, each district's superintendent, in consultation with the district's operations personnel, should review the information from this report and implement the relevant recommendations to increase efficiency, improve service levels, and/or achieve cost savings. Such recommendations include, but are not limited to:
  - a. implementing an electronic work order system;
  - b. conducting formal annual facility assessments;
  - c. implementing an energy management program; and,
  - d. implementing a formal preventative maintenance program.
2. For districts that were unable to provide certain information during this review pertaining to their operations, relevant district personnel should begin collecting and monitoring this data on an ongoing basis.
3. If feasible, districts should begin tracking custodial, maintenance, and groundskeeping costs separately.
4. District personnel should provide an annual report to the district superintendent regarding the status of the district's operations using the measures included in this review.

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## Appendix A: List of School Districts Included in this Review

1. Aberdeen\*
2. Amite
3. Amory
4. Benton County
5. Booneville
6. Calhoun
7. Carroll
8. Claiborne
9. Clarksdale
10. Clinton
11. Coffeeville
12. Columbia
13. Columbus
14. East Jasper
15. Enterprise
16. Forest
17. Franklin
18. Greenwood Leflore
19. Gulfport
20. Hinds
21. Jefferson
22. Jefferson Davis
23. Jones
24. Kemper
25. Lauderdale County
26. Laurel
27. Nettleton
28. Newton County
29. North Bolivar
30. North Tippah
31. Ocean Springs
32. Pascagoula-Gautier
33. Pearl
34. Petal
35. Pontotoc County
36. Poplarville
37. Richton
38. Scott
39. South Delta
40. South Pike
41. Starkville Oktibbeha
42. Tunica County
43. Tupelo
44. Union
45. Union County
46. Webster



- 47. West Bolivar
- 48. West Jasper
- 49. West Tallahatchie
- 50. Western Line

\* Aberdeen failed to provide benchmark or performance data for this review.

SOURCE: PEER.

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## Appendix B: FY 2023 Operations Information for Districts Reporting

District	Maintenance and Operations Expenditures	Total Square Feet Maintained	Total Square Acres on School Campuses	Number of Schools	Total Student Enrollment	Total Square Acres of 16 <sup>th</sup> Section Land*	Number of Maintenance FTE**	Number of Custodial FTE**	Number of Grounds-keeping FTE**
Aberdeen	Data Not Provided								
Amite	\$1,566,437	192,493	64	4	866	1,151,272	7	7	6 (Contracted)
Amory	\$3,619,789	320,425	67	5	1,524	N/A	4	(Contracted)	1
Benton County	\$4,175,477	167,420	84	4	961	N/A	2	6	(Contracted)
Booneville	\$1,108,903	188,637	70	3	1,320	N/A	0	6	0
Calhoun	\$3,548,590	543,885	1,825	7	2,089	1,580	5	15	0
Carroll	\$935,469	153,937	8,666	2	808	8,632	0	3	0
Claiborne	\$2,584,628	239,612	93	Not Provided	Not Provided	1,173,842	3	10	3
Clarksdale	\$1,471,091	485,734	122	8	2,060	N/A	24	20	4
Clinton	\$3,420,635	920,675	103	7	5,096	2,825	8	(Contracted)	2 (Contracted)
Coffeeville	\$384,245	131,333	3,381	2	404	3,340	0	4	0
Columbia	\$906,445	295,751	26	4	1,675	54	4 (Contracted)	0 (Contracted)	1
Columbus	\$5,231,110	898,141	226	9	3,082	3	11	33	3
East Jasper	\$1,417,993	230,282	Not Provided	3	752	N/A	2	7	2
Enterprise	\$720,167	161,423	41	3	982	3,200	2	4	2
Forest	\$14,370,660	267,967	50	3	1,670	1,920	0	15	0
Franklin	\$3,645,175	284,680	51	5	1,201	9,533	3	8	3
Greenwood Leflore	\$5,368,030	890,004	154	14	4,029	13,151	4	31	7
Gulfport	\$5,419,739	924,295	113	10	6,109	N/A	10	40	3
Hinds	\$7,748,908	986,389	205	10	4,960	11,600	11	3 (Contracted)	3 (Contracted)

Jefferson	\$2,405,858	234,894	7,413	3	1,009	7,421	2	11	0
Jefferson Davis	\$1,925,453	941,436	100	6	1,229	5,760	2	5	0
Jones	\$6,144,874	1,344,939	324	10	8,390	10,240	18	45	4
Kemper	\$1,803,810	4,123,085	95	4	884	10,764	3	8	2
Lauderdale	\$2,831,526	1,000,000	274	11	4,582	7,000	10	32 (Contracted)	(Contracted)
Laurel	\$5,427,149	613,955	132	6	2,643	N/A	3 (Contracted)	13	2 (Contracted)
Nettleton	\$838,451	124,400	65	3	1,080	N/A	(Contracted)	(Contracted)	(Contracted)
Newton	\$2,080,319	420,122	42	4	1,651	6,400	4	4 (Contracted)	0
North Bolivar	\$1,257,679	232,428	27	3	779	1,913	N/A	8	N/A
North Tippah	\$16,966,743	242,758	73	4	Not Provided	N/A	Not Provided	5	(Contracted)
Ocean Springs	\$58,982,914	1,044,412	195	7	5,883	N/A	11	(Contracted)	(Contracted)
Pascagoula-Gautier	\$15,131,873	1,477,000	180	19	6,518	128	16	60	8
Pearl	\$4,224,177	683,438	640	5	4157	230	5	11 (Contracted)	(Contracted)
Petal	\$4,471,523	591,590	47	5	4,352	1,280	5 (Contracted)	25 (Contracted)	5 (Contracted)
Pontotoc County	\$2,430,743	515,630	162	7	3,389	N/A	4	10 (Contracted)	1
Poplarville	\$1,877,152	297,195	78	5	1,869	8,000	0	0	13
Richton	\$422,693	133,275	2	2	574	2,640	1	3	(Contracted)
Scott	\$3,738,379	496,560	0	9	3,988	640	3 (Contracted)	(Contracted)	(Contracted)
South Delta	\$11,932,514	10,596	73	3	598	73	4	5	4
South Pike	Not Provided	301,729	N/A	Not Provided	Not Provided	38,414	(Contracted)	(Contracted)	(Contracted)
Starkville Oktibbeha	\$5,737,299	969,581	145	10	4,828	N/A	6	40	3 (Contracted)
Tunica County	\$5,019,921	402,086	61	5	1,646	N/A	7	15	3

Tupelo	\$106,049,181	1,500,000	200	13	5,515	N/A	7	(38) (Contracted)	0
Union	\$1,463,437	136,101	45	3	924	1,280	2	1 FTE (10 Contracted)	(Contracted)
Union County	\$1,444,462	430,113	144	4	2,942	N/A	1	8	0
Webster	Not Provided	458,109	111	Not Provided	Not Provided	4,600	3	(Contracted)	7 (3 Contracted)
West Bolivar	\$3,290,005	156,500	80	3	984	200	2	10	1 (Contracted)
West Jasper	\$1,804,000	223,926	71	4	1,401	5,100	5	9	0 (Contracted)
West Tallahatchie	\$1,085,392	192,568	53	3	Not Provided	2,860	2	4	0 (Contracted)
Western Line	\$3,340,092	364,613	72	5	1,243	3,100	3	18	0

\*16th section land refers to a specific type of land grant set aside for the benefit of public education. These lands were originally designated under the provisions of the U.S. Land Ordinance of 1785. The ordinance reserved every 16th section (approximately one square mile or 640 acres) within each township to generate revenue for local schools.

Note: The treaty with the Chickasaw Indian Nation ceding their land to the United States failed to specifically reserve Sixteenth Sections, and when the lands were later sold by the government, no provision was made for the reservation of school trust lands. Later the United States granted the State of Mississippi lieu land as compensation for this error. However, this lieu land was sold by the state, and the money was invested in railroad bonds. The investment was lost during the Civil War. The State Legislature currently makes annual appropriations to school districts in the Chickasaw Cession area to compensate for this lost source of local education funding.

\*\*Some districts provided the number of contracted employees, whereas some did not.

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## Appendix C: FY 2023 Operations Benchmark Data and Performance Indicators for Districts Reporting

Aberdeen
Benchmark Data Not Reported
Performance Data Not Reported

Amite			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	8.7%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,809	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.19	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$264	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.17	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	27,499	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.71	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	96,246	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	222.28	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	48,123.3	-	N/A

Amory			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✕	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	17.2%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,375	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.99	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$208	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian			
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$10.31	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	3	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	80,106.25	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	67	+	-
Square Footage per Student	210.25	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	64,085	-	N/A

Benton County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments as needed.
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	26%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$4,345	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.82	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$318	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.37	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	27,903	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.88	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	83,710	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	174.21	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	41,855	-	N/A



Booneville			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$840	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.32	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	31,440	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.88	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Provided		
Acreage per Groundskeeper	280	+	+
Square Footage per Student	142.91	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	62,879	-	N/A

Calhoun			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments as needed.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	10.7%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,699	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.45	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	36,259	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.10	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	108,777	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	260.36	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	77,697.9	-	N/A

Carroll			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	7.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,158	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.48	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	51,312	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.08	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Provided		
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	190.52	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	76,968.5	-	N/A

Claiborne			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	13.1%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	Data Not Provided*		
Custodial Cost per Square Foot			
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	23,961	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.39	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	79,871	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	31	-	-
Square Footage per Student	235	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	Data Not Provided		

\*Claiborne does not separate its maintenance costs from its custodial costs, which impacted this analysis.

Clarksdale			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	2.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$714	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.57	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$371	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.26	+	-
Square Footage per Custodian	24,287	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$1.45	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	20,239	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	31	-	-
Square Footage per Student	235.79	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	60,716.8	-	N/A

Clinton			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	5.5%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$671	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.93	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$168	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.10	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	Data Not Provided		
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.78	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	7	+	+
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	115,084	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	52	+	-
Square Footage per Student	180.67	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	131,525	+	N/A

Coffeeville			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	5.1%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$951	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.18	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	32,833	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.93	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician			
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	325.08	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	65,666.5	-	N/A

Columbia			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		✗	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	3.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$541	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.92	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$162	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.06	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	Data Not Provided		
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.14	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	73,938	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	26	-	-
Square Footage per Student	176.57	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	73,937.8	-	N/A



Columbus			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		✗	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below ( ), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below ( ), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	9.7%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,697	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.72	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$501	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.10	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	27,216	-	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$3.45	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	3	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	81,649	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	75	+	+
Square Footage per Student	291.41	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	99,793.4	+	N/A

East Jasper			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	8.4%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,886	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.77	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$235	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.15	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	32,897	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.39	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	0.3	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	115,141	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	306.23	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	76,760.7	-	N/A

Enterprise			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments as needed.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	5.7%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$733	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.21	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$200	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.32	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	40,356	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$1.52	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	80,712	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	21	-	-
Square Footage per Student	164.38	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	53,807.7	-	N/A

Forest			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	56.3%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$8,605	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$2.45	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$393	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.38	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	17,864	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.86	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician			
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	160.46	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	89,322.3	+	N/A

Franklin			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	20.0%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$3,035	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.49	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$353	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.29	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	35,585	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$4.70	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	94,893	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	17	-	-
Square Footage per Student	237.04	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	56,936	-	N/A

Greenwood Leflore			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	8.3%	=	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,332	+	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.18	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$261	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.06	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	28,710	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$4.85	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	222,501	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	22	-	-
Square Footage per Student	220.90	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	63,571.7	-	N/A

Gulfport			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$887	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.66	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$251	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.18	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	23,107	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$1.85	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	92,430	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	38	-	-
Square Footage per Student	151.30	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	92,429.5	+	N/A

Hinds			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		✗	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	9.6%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,562	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.74	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$147	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.04	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	328,796	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$7.12	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	89,672	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	68	+	-
Square Footage per Student	198.87	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	98,638.9	+	N/A



Jefferson			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	13.1%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,384	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.30	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$303	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.90	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	21,354	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.87	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	117,447	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	232.8	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	78,298	-	N/A

Jefferson Davis			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,567	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.08	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	188,287	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.05	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	470,718	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	766.02	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	156,906	+	N/A

Jones			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	5.3%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$732	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.02	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$164	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.16	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	29,888	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$3.55	-	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	3.5	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	74,719	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	81	+	+
Square Footage per Student	160.3	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	134,493.9	+	N/A

Kemper			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	4.8%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,041	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	515,386	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$0.44	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	1,374,362	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	47	=	-
Square Footage per Student	4,664.12	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	1,030,771.3	+	N/A

Lauderdale County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		✗	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	3.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$483	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.46	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$249	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.31	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	31,250	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$1.37	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	100,000	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	171	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	90,909.1	+	N/A

Laurel			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	9.2%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,053	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	47,227	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$8.84	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	204,652	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	66	+	-
Square Footage per Student	232.29	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	102,325.8	+	N/A

Nettleton			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial, Groundskeeping, and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	4.8%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$776	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.67	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$192	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian			
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.07	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	62,200	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	115.19	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	41,466.7	-	N/A

Newton County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.1%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$996	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.76	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$192	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.04	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	105,031	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$3.16	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	105,031	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	254.47	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	105,030.5	+	N/A



North Bolivar			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	Data Not Clarified		
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	Data Not Available*		
Custodial Cost per Square Foot			
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	30,990	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1.5	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Provided		
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	298.37	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	77,476	-	N/A

\*North Bolivar does not separate its maintenance costs from its custodial costs, which impacted this analysis.

North Tippah			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		✗	Every Four to Five Years
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	104.21%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	Data Not Clarified		
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.49	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$102	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian	60,689.5	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$69.40	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	6	+	+
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Provided		
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	208	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	60,689.5	-	N/A

Ocean Springs			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$772	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.96	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$171	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.07	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	Data Not Provided		
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$8.76	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	94,947	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	177.53	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	149,201.7	+	N/A

Pascagoula-Gautier			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	12.6%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,322	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.61	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$364	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian	24,824	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$8.64	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	92,313	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	23	-	-
Square Footage per Student	226.6	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	77,736.8	-	N/A

Pearl			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	7.6%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,016	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$2.03	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$334	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.70	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	62,131	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$4.14	-	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2.5	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	136,688	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	164.41	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	136,687.6	+	N/A

Petal			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✕	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial, Groundskeeping, and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,027	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.30	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$177	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.09	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	23,664	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.26	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2.5	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	118,318	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	9	-	-
Square Footage per Student	135.94	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	118,318	+	N/A

Pontotoc County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	9.6%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$717	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$3.95	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$601	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$1.19	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	51,563	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$0.77	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	128,908	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	162	+	+
Square Footage per Student	152.15	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	73,661.4	-	N/A

Poplarville			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.7%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,004	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	22,861	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.32	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Provided		
Acreage per Groundskeeper			
Square Footage per Student	159.01	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	59,439	-	N/A



Richton			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	5.1%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$771	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.38	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$87	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.18	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	44,425	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$2.95	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	133,275	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	232.19	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	66,637.5	-	N/A

Scott			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial, Groundskeeping, and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	7.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$937	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.33	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$166	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian			
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.60	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	3	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	165,520	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	124.51	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	55,173.3	-	N/A

South Delta			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	Data Not Clarified		
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	Data Not Available*		
Custodial Cost per Square Foot			
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	Data Not Clarified		
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot			
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	3	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	Data Not Clarified		
Acreage per Groundskeeper	18	-	-
Square Footage per Student	Data Not Clarified		
Square Footage per School			

\*South Delta does not separate its maintenance costs from its custodial costs, which impacted this analysis.

South Pike			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial, Groundskeeping, and Maintenance		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	Data Not Provided		
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student			
Custodial Cost per Square Foot			
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian			
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot			
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order			
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	100,576	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	219	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	Data Not Provided		

Starkville Oktibbeha			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	6.2%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,188	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.37	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$75	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.21	-	-
Square Footage per Custodian	24,240	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.54	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	161,597	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	48	+	-
Square Footage per Student	200.82	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	96,958.1	+	N/A

Tunica County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	13.3%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$3,050	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.87	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$457	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.32	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	26,806	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$7.70	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	5	+	=
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	57,441	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	20	-	-
Square Footage per Student	244.28	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	80,417.2	=	N/A

Tupelo			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	70.4%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$19,229	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.61	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$165	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.31	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	39,474	+	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$0.24	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	5	+	=
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	214,286	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	271.99	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	115,384.6	+	N/A

Union			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?		x	The district conducts assessments on an as-needed basis.
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	11.7%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,584	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.70	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$103	-	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian	136,101	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$7.32	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	68,051	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	147.3	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	45,367	-	N/A



Union County			
Benchmark Data Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		✗	
Has an energy management program?		✗	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	2.9%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$389	-	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.57	+	+
Custodial Cost per Student	\$229	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.29	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	53,764	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$1.09	-	-
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	430,113	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	146.2	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	107,528.3	+	N/A

Webster			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Custodial and Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	Data Not Provided		
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student			
Custodial Cost per Square Foot			
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	70,478	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	5.4	+	+
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	183,244	+	+
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	300	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	Data Not Provided		

West Bolivar			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	16.5%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$3,344	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.40	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	15,650	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$9.89	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	4	+	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	78,250	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	80	+	+
Square Footage per Student	159.04	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	52,166.7	-	N/A

West Jasper			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?	✓		
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?	✓		
Has an energy management program?		x	
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	7.8%	-	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$1,288	+	-
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Custodial Cost per Student			
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot			
Square Footage per Custodian	24,881	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$8.06	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	1	-	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	44,785	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	159.83	-	N/A
Square Footage per School	55,981.5	-	N/A

West Tallahatchie			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	Groundskeeping		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	8.5%	+	-
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,229	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$0.57	-	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$227	+	-
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Custodian	55,019	+	+
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$5.06	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	5	+	=
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	96,284	-	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	395	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	64,189.3	-	N/A

Western Line			
Benchmark Data not Reported			
Benchmark	Yes	No	Notes
Uses an electronic maintenance work order system?		x	
Has a formal preventative maintenance program?		x	
Has an energy management program?	✓		
Conducts a formal facilities assessment each year?	✓		
Use of contracted services	None		
Performance Data Reported			
Performance Indicator	FY 2023	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) State Peer Median	Below (-), Above (+), or Equal to (=) Regional Peer Average
Total Operations Expenses as a Percentage of Total District Expenses	12.1%	+	+
Maintenance and Operations Cost per Student	\$2,687	+	+
Custodial Cost per Square Foot	\$1.37	=	-
Custodial Cost per Student	\$403	+	+
Custodial Supply Cost per Square Foot	\$0.29	+	+
Square Footage per Custodian	20,256	-	-
Maintenance Cost per Square Foot	\$6.26	+	+
Average Number of Days to Complete a Maintenance Work Order	2	=	-
Square Footage per Maintenance Technician	121,538	+	-
Acreage per Groundskeeper	Data Not Provided		
Square Footage per Student	293.33	+	N/A
Square Footage per School	72,922.6	-	N/A

**James F. (Ted) Booth, Executive Director**

Reapportionment

Ben Collins

Administration

Kirby Arinder

Stephanie Harris

Gale Taylor

Quality Assurance and Reporting

Tracy Bobo

Bryan "Jay" Giles

Performance Evaluation

Lonnie Edgar, Deputy Director

Jennifer Sebren, Deputy Director

Taylor Burns

Emily Cloys

Kim Cummins

Kelsi Ford

Rucell Harris

Matthew Holmes

Chelsey Little

Debra Monroe

Ryan Morgan

Meri Clare Ringer

Sarah Williamson

Julie Winkeljohn