



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Gary N. Frisch
Assistant Superintendent of
Finance/School Business
Administrator

Tel: (978) 674-4325
Tel: (978) 674-2019
Fax: (978) 937-7620
E-Mail: gfrisch@lowell.k12.ma.us

To: Salah Khelfaoui, Superintendent

From: Gary N. Frisch, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/School Business Administrator

Re: Finance Sub-Committee

Date: December 20, 2017

How does Lowell Public School's expenditures compare against other urban school districts?

Attached please find the following six graphs for review, based on the 2015-16 data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):

- Total Expenditures
- Administrative Costs
- Operations and Maintenance
- Professional Development
- Class Size
- Supplies and Equipment

Total Expenditures

Lowell Public School spends \$14,411 per student. The state average is \$15,544. This amounts to a difference of over \$1,133 in funding per student. If Lowell had more state funding equal to the state average for each student, LPS would have an additional \$18,009,035 more in its budget (15,895 students multiplied by \$1,133 = \$18,009,035). Urban students typically need more resources per student than their non-urban counterparts. However, in the state of Massachusetts, the opposite is occurring, meaning there is less resources allocated to urban students. Urban school districts are receiving less funding than non-urban school districts. The higher costs to educate urban students are due to the need to provide additional supports including more tutoring, social workers, and paraprofessionals to assist teachers.

Administrative Costs

Lowell Public Schools has one of the lowest administrative costs per students, when compared to other urban school districts in our state. In addition, the District has reduced its staff by six administrators since the start of the 2017-18 school year. Therefore, we expect the administrative costs per student will decrease even more over the next two years (2016-17 and 2017-18).

Operations and Maintenance

LPS spends the least amount on maintenance and operations when compared to other urban districts in MA. The state average shows that other school districts in MA spend approximately \$400 more per student on buildings and grounds. If Lowell had an additional \$400 per student, it would amount to \$6,358,000 more to maintain the buildings and grounds.

Professional Development

The District is spending the second lowest amount on professional development compared to the other districts in the urban comparison group. Professional development is one of the key factors to driving academic progress and should be a higher priority in budgeting.

Students Per Teacher

This graph illustrates the student/teacher ratio, which illustrates how many students per teacher in the District. The number of students in this graph is typically lower than an average classroom, since the ratio includes non-classroom teachers including literacy, math resource, English language support and special education teachers.

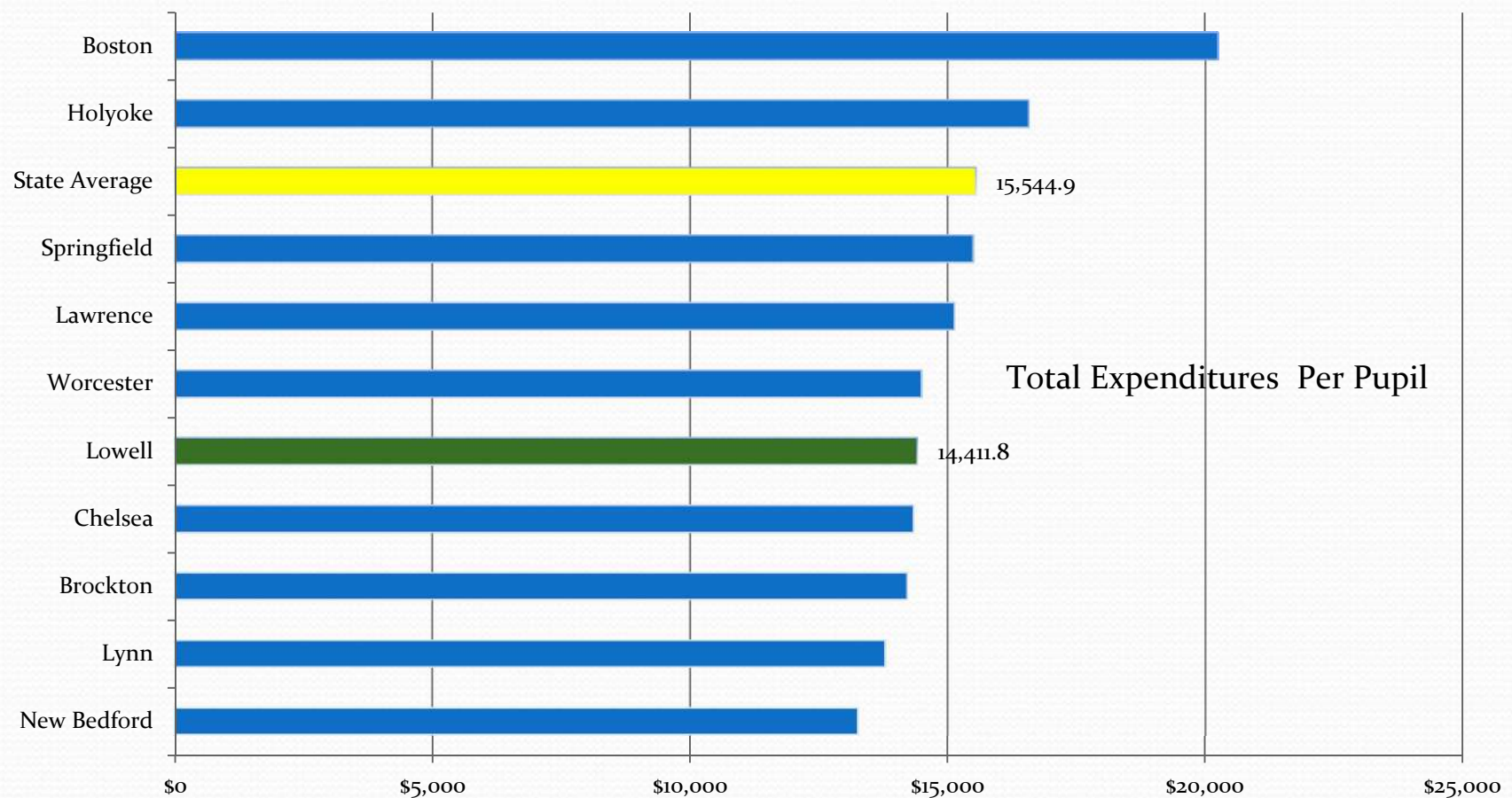
Lowell is in the middle of this comparison group with 13.8 students per teacher as compared to a low of 12.1 to a high of 15.7.

Supplies, Equipment and Technology

In this comparison group Lowell is near the top in spending on supplies and equipment per student.

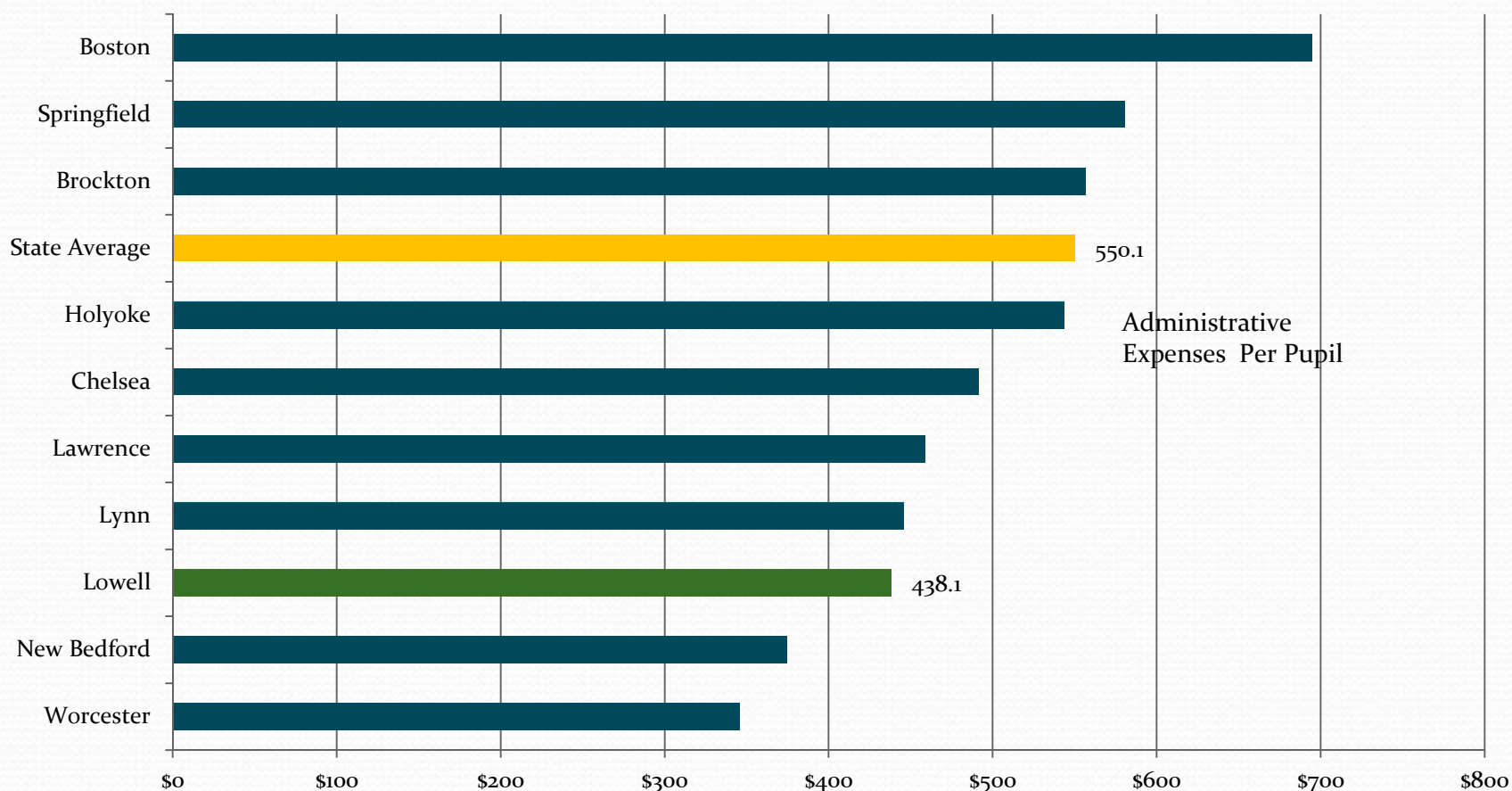
2015-16

Total Expenditures Per Pupil



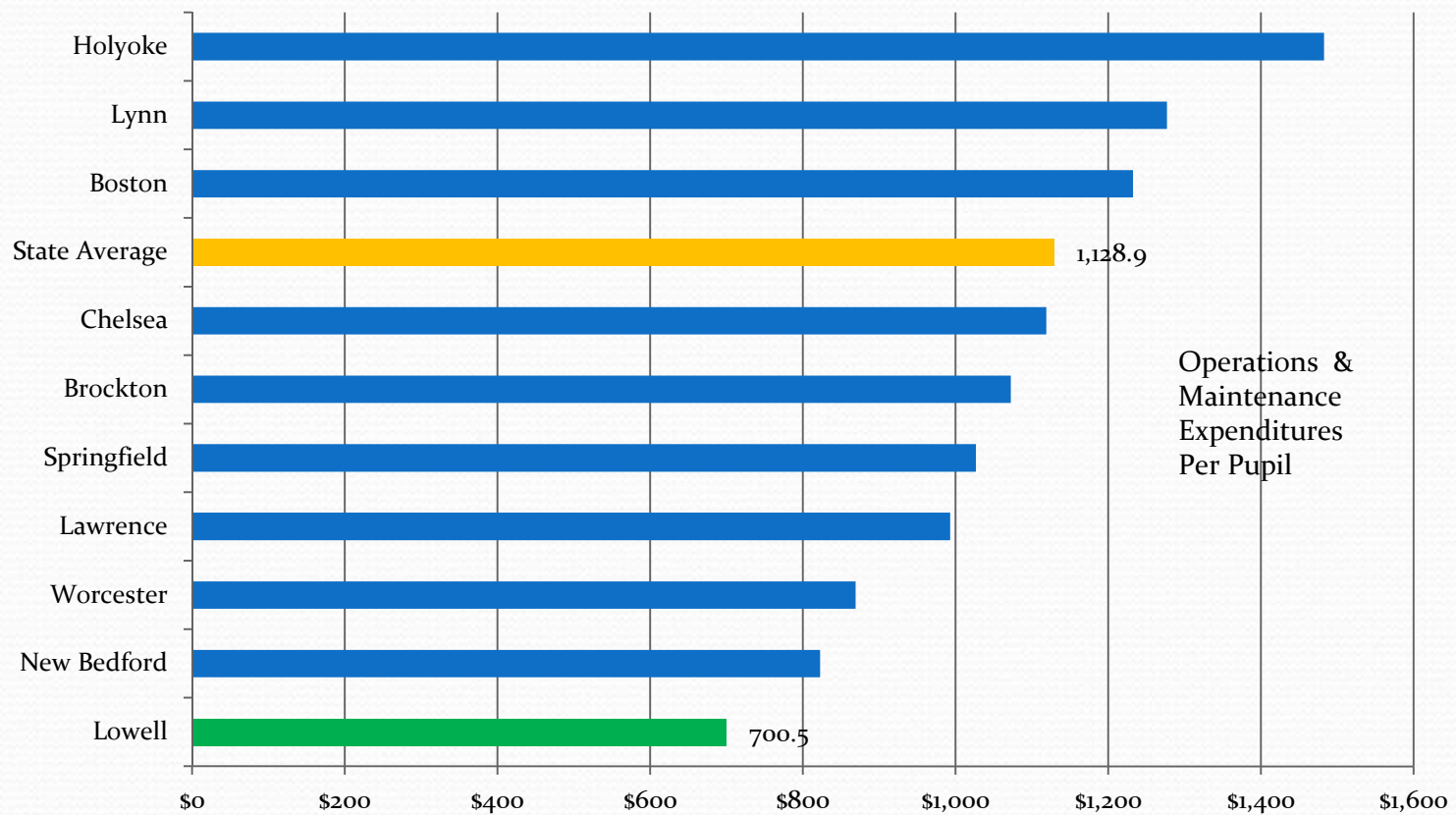
2015-16

Administrative Expenses Per Pupil



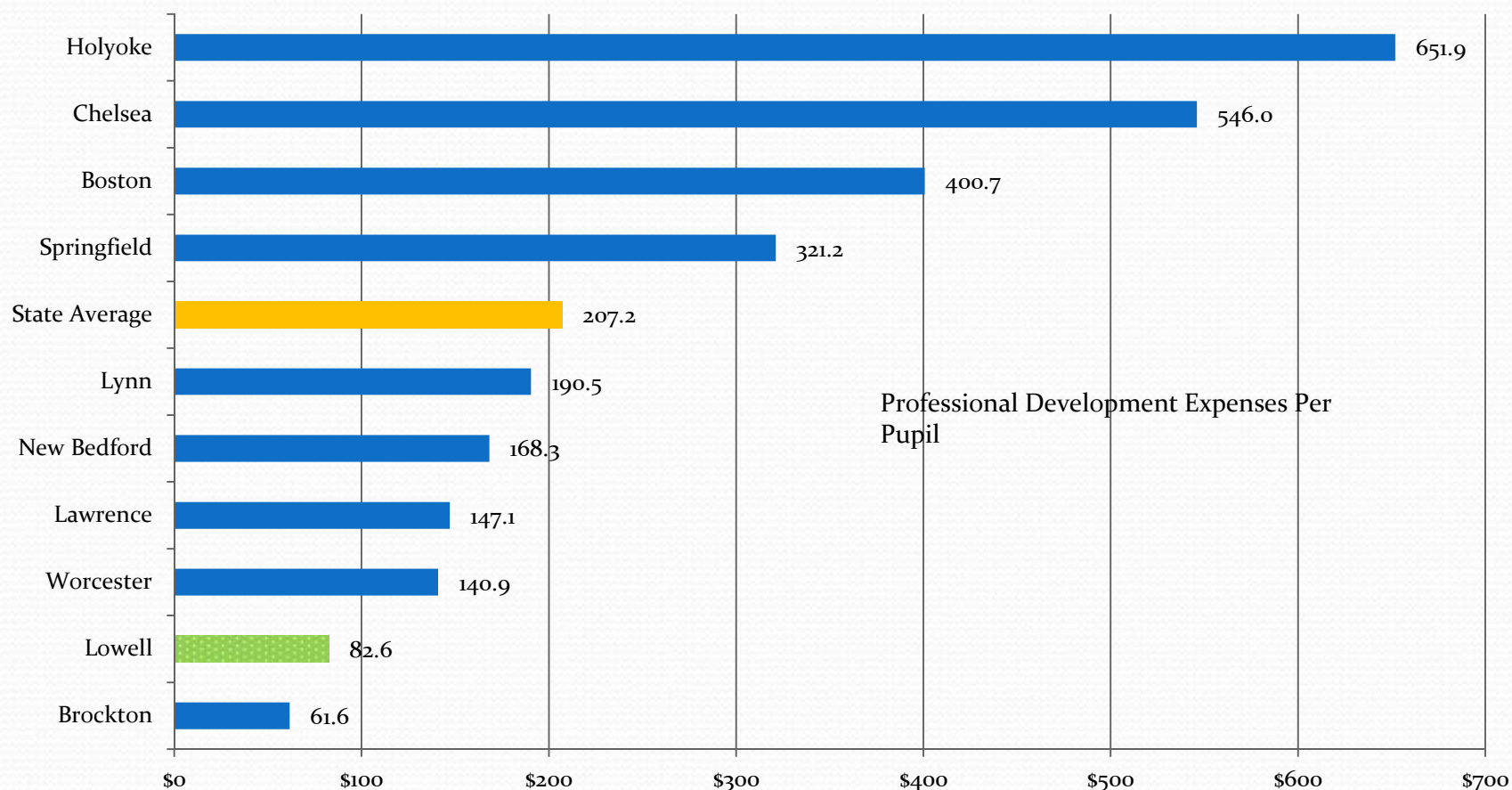
2015-16

Operation and Maintenance Expenditures Per Pupil



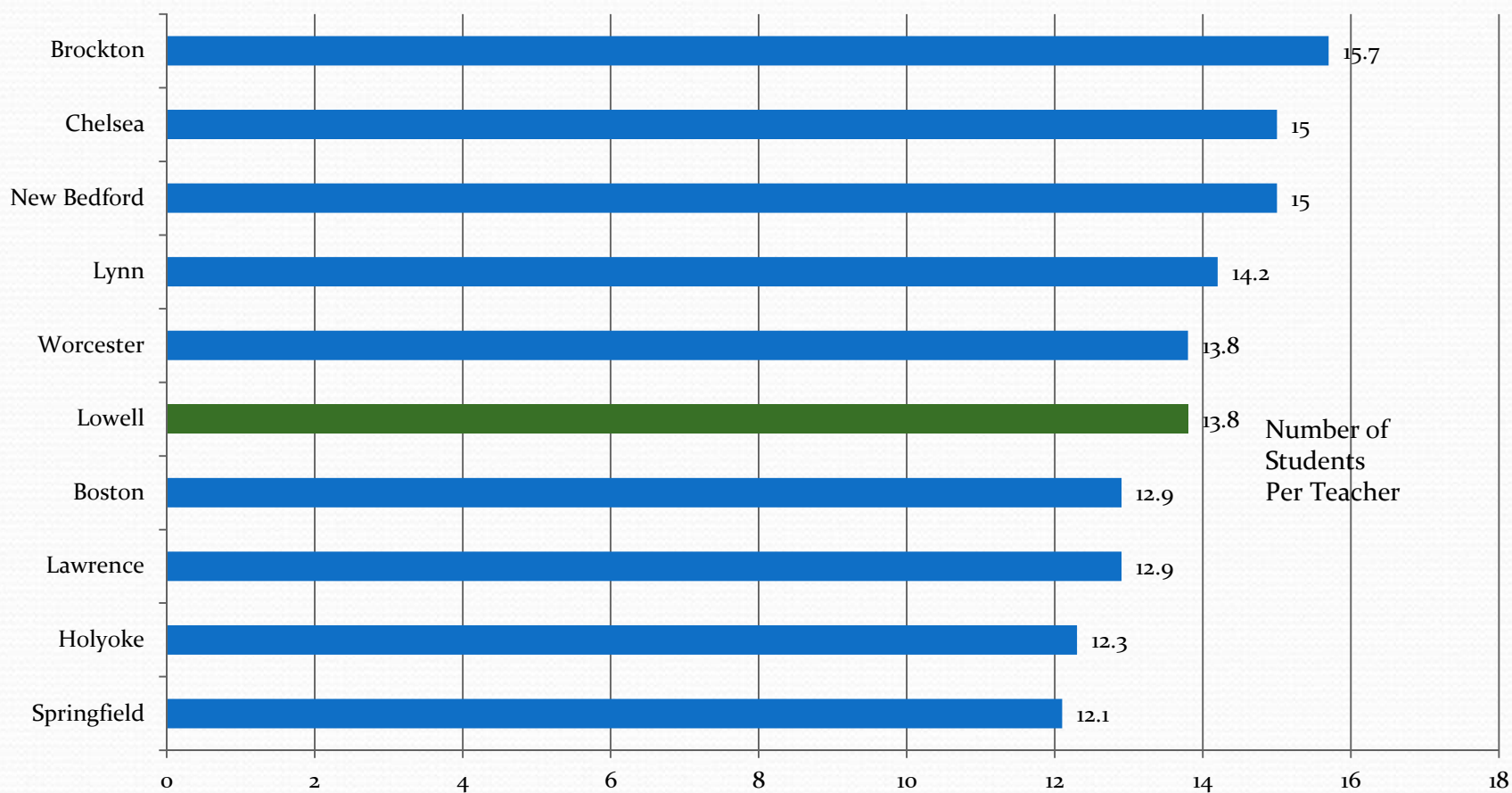
2015-16

Professional Development Per Pupil



2015-16

Students Per Teacher



2015-16

Supplies, Equipment and Technology Expenses Per Pupil

