

Noble Finances – Key Facts

The following is an overview of some basic facts about Noble Network's finances.

If you're interested in more detailed information about Noble's finances beyond this overview, you can review our IRS Form 990s from previous fiscal years, which are posted online (http://noblenetwork.org/sites/default/files/images/2015_990.pdf).

- Noble receives most our funding from CPS. This year, our annual operating budget is about \$150 million. Unfortunately, Noble's budget from CPS has been cut through per-pupil funding reductions for three straight years – which has presented real financial and operational challenges.
- As part of our financial health, Noble keeps funding in reserve because it is required by our bond covenants and to ensure that any major financial disruptions, like CPS funding cuts, don't impact our students and schools.
- Keeping 90-180 days of funding reserve is standard practice for nonprofits (<http://grantspace.org/tools/knowledge-base/Nonprofit-Management/Sustainability/operating-reserves>), and is an important measurement of a nonprofit's fiscal health. As of right now, we have 133 days (or about \$53 million) in reserve, though this number fluctuates as we receive quarterly payments from CPS and then spend those payments down. Our practice is always to remain within the recommended 90-180 day runway. This is separate from Noble's annual operating budget.
- At Noble, salaries and benefits account for \$93 million (62%) of all expenses – meaning that nearly 2 out of every 3 dollars go directly to our most valuable resource: our people.
- Including campus personnel expenses, 90% of Noble's total expenses are at the school level – spending that most directly impacts students. Most major school districts have much higher central office overhead costs.
- The Noble Network Support Team accounts for 10% of all expenditures, which is consistent with many of the highest performing charter schools nationally. From interim assessments, support for students with special needs, data analysis tools, college counseling and scholarships, IT specialists, media and communications, fundraising, facility support, HR and Talent, and many others, NNST support spans all functions of our work with the goal of removing obstacles and providing resources so that teachers and principals can focus on what matters most: teaching our students.