

# Federated States of Micronesia 2013/2014 HIES Education



## Executive summary

**92%**

of the population aged 6+ ever attended school



**50%**

of the population aged 21+ that belong to low-income quintile did not complete any education

**85%**

of the students attending tertiary education belong to the high-income quintile



**16%**

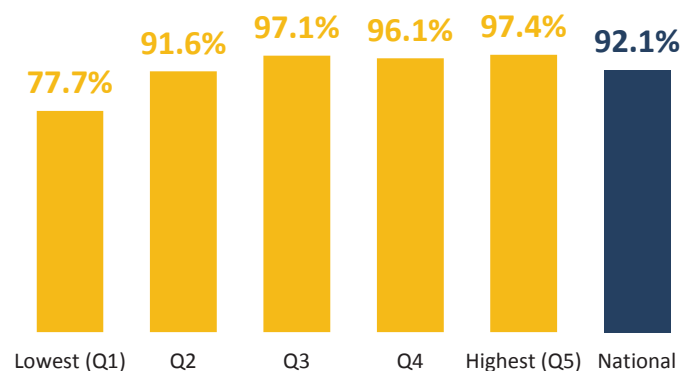
of the students pay for school fees

## Introduction

This fact sheet reports on education in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It presents data on school attendance, level of schooling, and education expenditure, with consideration to variables such as age, geographic area, gender and household (HH) income. The 'out of school' category applies to those who never attended school or completed preschool only; primary education covers years one to eight; secondary runs from level 9 up to level 12. Tertiary/Vocational refers to enrolment in academic or occupational programs in university or college.

the significant disparities between states. In Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae, 2% of the population aged 6+ have never attended school, while in Chuuk the figure rises to more than 14%. In FSM, school attendance by gender among the 6+ population is equal. The level of income and the level of education of the HH head appear to determine school attendance rates (Chart 1).

*Chart 1: Population aged 6+ who have attended school by quintile*



## School attendance

**7.9%**

of the population in FSM never attended school



In FSM, 7.9% of the population aged 6 and above have never attended school. This national statistic is not representative of

the significant disparities between states. In Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae, 2% of the population aged 6+ have never attended school, while in Chuuk the figure rises to more than 14%. In FSM, school attendance by gender among the 6+ population is equal. The level of income and the level of education of the HH head appear to determine school attendance rates (Chart 1).

figures on private school enrolment show significant variability: 14.6% in Yap, 6.9% in Chuuk, 6.4% in Pohnpei, and 1% in Kosrae. It is mainly those from high-income HHs who can afford private schools in FSM (17.3% in Q5 compared to 0.6% in Q1).

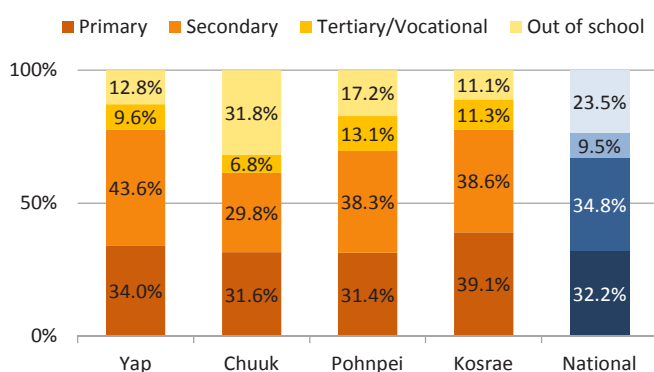
## 1 out of 4

of the population in FSM aged 6–21 is currently not attending school



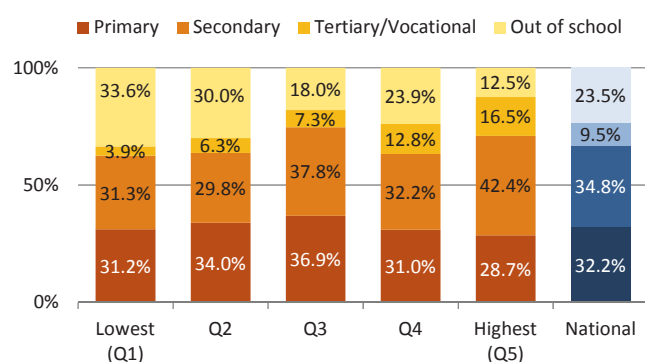
At the national level, almost a quarter of the population aged 6 to 21 does not attend school, and in Chuuk the figure is almost one third. The number of students enrolled at the tertiary/vocational level is twice as high in Pohnpei as in Chuuk (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Educational status of population aged 6–21 by state



HH income is a major indicator of education levels in FSM. In the high-income group (Q5), there are more than four times more students enrolled in tertiary/vocational institutions than in the low-income group (Q1), and three times more of the population aged 6–21 attends school (Chart 3).

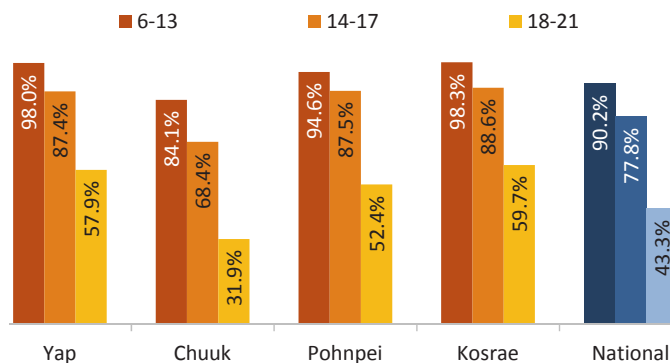
Chart 3: Educational status of population aged 6–21 by quintile



Looking at the population aged 6 to 21, divided in 3 groups according to the level of education – primary (6–13); secondary (14–17); and tertiary/vocational (18+) – the following observations were made:

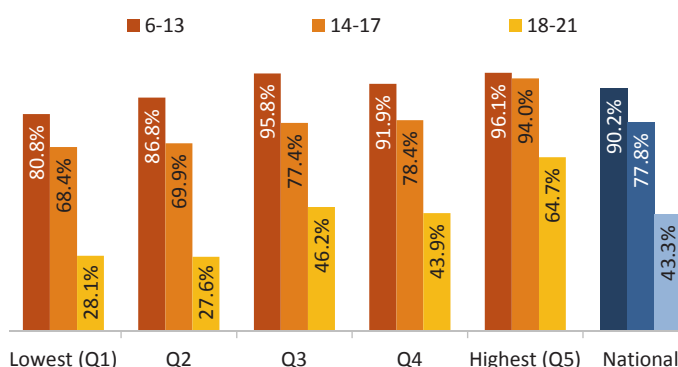
- Chuuk has the lowest school attendance in all three groups (Chart 4).

Chart 4: School attendance rates by age group and state



- Gender is not a determinant of educational level or school attendance in all groups
- The gap in school attendance between wealthy HHs (Q5) and low cash income HHs (Q1) increases with age and level of education; more than 65% of the Q5 population aged 18–21 is still attending school and only 28% in Q1 (Chart 5).

Chart 5: School attendance rates by age group and income quintile



- Level of education of the HH head is also highly correlated to the education levels of school-aged HH members; 60% of the population aged 18 to 21 living in an HH headed by a person who completed tertiary/vocational education is currently attending school, and less than 30% of the same age group is living in an HH headed by a person who did not attend a tertiary/vocational institution.

## Level of education

# 11%

of the population aged 21+ graduated from tertiary/vocational school

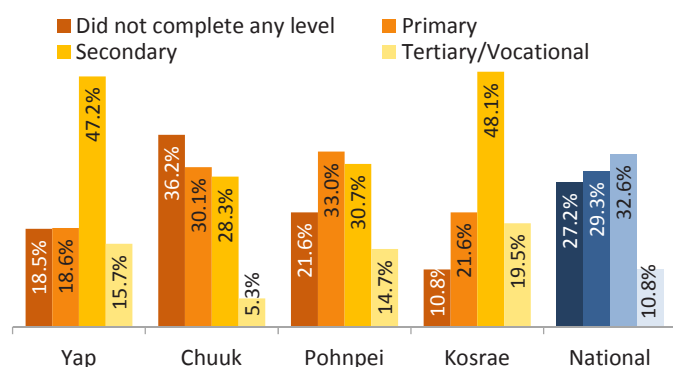


In FSM, 43% of the population aged 21 years old<sup>1</sup> and above have completed at least secondary education, and only 10.6%

<sup>1</sup> 2% of the population aged 21+ is currently attending school.

graduated from tertiary/vocational school (Chart 6). This figure indicates that three quarters of the 21+ population who completed secondary school failed to pursue or complete tertiary/vocational studies. The main reasons cited for not going beyond secondary were: 'personal reason' (32%); 'completed desired schooling' (29%); and 'found a job' (20%).

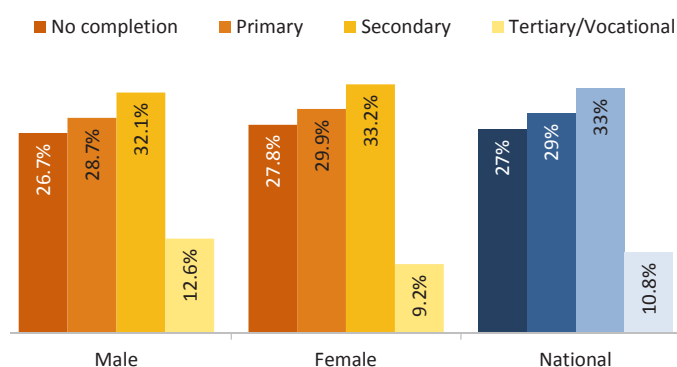
**Chart 6: Percentage of population aged 21+ by level of education completed by state**



Chuuk shows the lowest secondary school completion rates among the population aged 21 and above (28.3%); of this group, only 5.3% graduated from a tertiary/vocational institution – meaning that 8 out of 10 people who completed secondary did not obtain a post-secondary degree. Furthermore, 36.2% of the Chuuk population aged 21 and above did not complete any education, compared to 10.8% in Kosrae, 18.5% in Yap and 21.6% in Pohnpei.

The states with the highest secondary school completion rates are Kosrae (48.1%) and Yap (47.2%). Kosrae also boasts the highest ratio of tertiary/vocational graduates (19.5%); however, Pohnpei has the highest number of tertiary school graduates (5.3%). In FSM, men have slightly higher levels of education than women, especially at the post-secondary level; 12.6% of men vs. 9% of women have graduated from tertiary/vocational institutions (Chart 7).

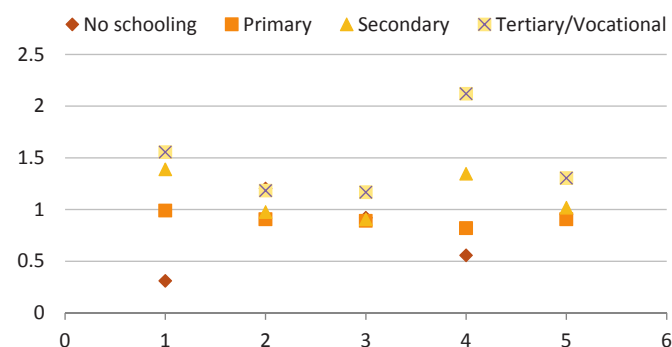
**Chart 7: Percentage of population aged 21+ by level of education completed and gender**



The gender analysis of education level completed by state (Chart 8) shows that in Yap and Kosrae fewer women than men aged 21 and above have attended school, and a much larger number of men have completed tertiary and secondary education. Out of the total population that has completed

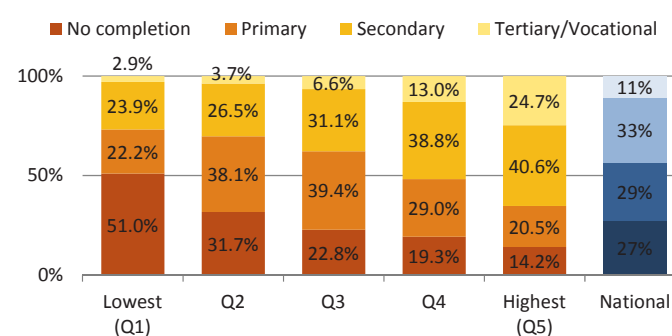
tertiary/vocational studies, women account for only 39% in Yap and 32% in Kosrae.

**Chart 8: Population aged 21+ by gender and level of education completed**



HH income levels have a significant impact on education levels: 24.7% of the wealthy population (Q5) completed a tertiary/vocational degree, compared to 2.9% in Q1 (Chart 9). The results also showed a strong link between the education level of the HH head and the education level of the people residing in that HH (mainly children); 55% of those living in a HH where the head has not completed any education, have also not completed any education. Conversely, HH members who have an educated HH head, show much higher levels of enrolment and education; for example, 78% of HH members aged 21+ who are living in a HH headed by a person who has graduated from a tertiary institution have completed a minimum of secondary level education.

**Chart 9: Percentage of population aged 21+ by level of education completed and income quintile**



## Education and activity status, youth

**53%**

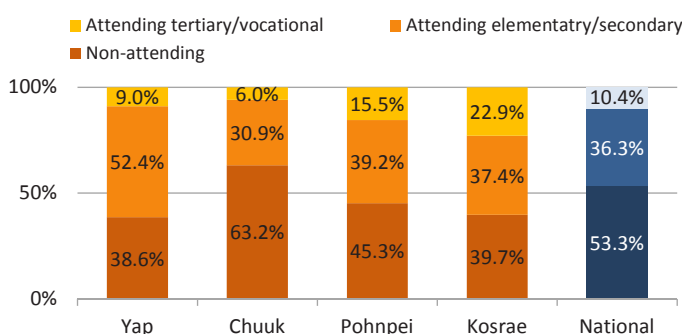
of the youth population does not attend school



In FSM, more than half of the youth population aged 15 to 24 does not attend school – 33% attend secondary school;

10.4% are enrolled in tertiary/vocational institutions; and 2.6% are still attending primary school (Chart 10). Kosrae and Yap demonstrate the highest ratio of youth still attending school – around 60%, Chuuk has the highest ratio of youth not attending school (63%) and reports the lowest figures for tertiary/vocational attendance (6%).

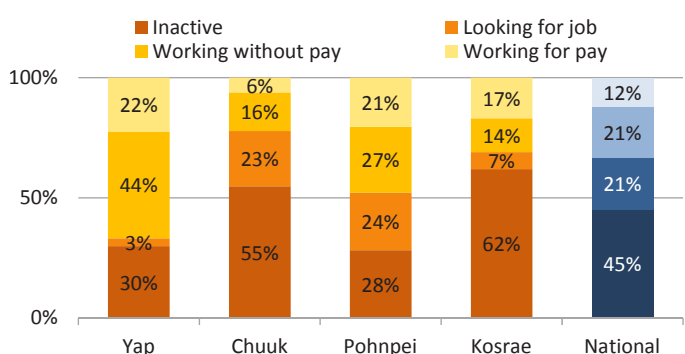
**Chart 10: Percentage of youth population according to the school status by state**



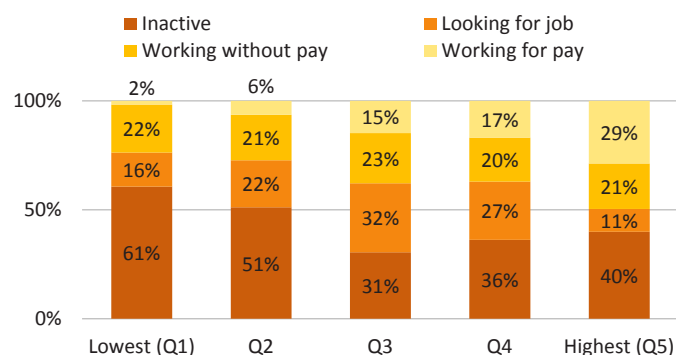
Tertiary education is mainly reserved for high-income HHs (Q5); 67.9% of the youth population in Q1 is not attending school. The main reasons cited by youth for leaving school were: ‘personal reason’ (40%), followed by ‘had to help at home’ (17%). In Yap the number two reason given was: ‘completed desired schooling’ (29%); and in Chuuk ‘family problems’ ranked highest among states (16%). Among young women aged 15 to 24, 22% said they had to leave school to help at home, compared to 13% of young men. The youth population in Q5 cited ‘personal reason’ (46%) as the top reason for leaving school, followed by ‘completed desired school’; ‘found a job’; and ‘had to help at home’ (15%). In the lower income quintile (Q1), the second reason most frequently reported was ‘family problems’ (26%), followed by ‘personal reason’ (29%).

In Yap, 44% of the youth population not attending school are subsistence workers – working for own consumption, without pay (Chart 11). Other states show a higher ratio of out-of-school youth staying at home: ‘inactive or mainly looking after home duties’. With the exception of the mid-level income (Q3) group, where there is a higher proportion of job seekers, home duties is the main activity status for the youth population not attending school across all other quintiles (Chart 12).

**Chart 11: Activity status of youth population not attending school by state**



**Chart 12: Activity status of youth population not attending school by quintile**



## Share of education in HH budget

According to Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)<sup>2</sup>, education accounts for 3.4% of HH cash expenditure and 2.7% of total HH expenditures – including home production. However, with the addition of other education-related expenses – school uniforms (clothing division), school bags (miscellaneous items division), stationery and school books (recreation and culture division) and school donations (non-consumption expenditure) – education expenditure rises to 5.6% of the total HH cash budget in FSM, and 4.5% of total HH expenditure<sup>3</sup>. HHs in Pohnpei and Kosrae dedicate the highest share of their cash budget to education (6.4% and 6% respectively) compared to Yap and Chuuk (Table 1).

**Table 1: Share of HH budget dedicated to education**

	COICOP %		Education %	
	Cash exp.	Total exp.	Cash exp.	Total exp.
Yap	3.4	2.4	5.2	3.6
Chuuk	3.1	2.4	4.3	3.4
Pohnpei	3.5	2.8	6.4	5.2
Kosrae	3.8	3.6	6.0	5.6
National	3.4	2.7	5.6	4.5

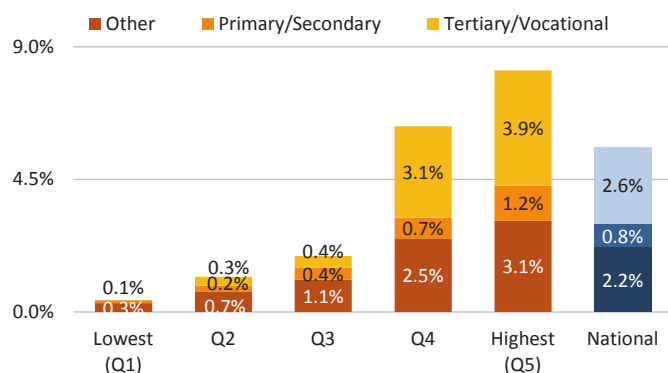
The most significant school expenditure is the school fee, which accounts for 60% of total educational-related expenditure – 46% for tertiary and vocational education, 5% for secondary and 9% for primary. School materials (stationery, books, bags) account for 22% and boarding fees account for 12% of the education budget. Uniforms and school donations comprise the remainder of education expenditure at 3% each.

<sup>2</sup> COICOP: Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose is a reference classification published by the United Nations Statistics Division that divides the purpose of individual consumption expenditure incurred by the HHs into 12 divisions. Education expenditure (school fees) is division 10.

<sup>3</sup> Total expenditure includes cash expenditure and the value of items produced and consumed by the HHs themselves (mainly food items from primary production) estimated at the price of the nearest market.

High-income HHs dedicate a larger percentage of their income to education compared to low-income HHs (Chart 13), as they are more likely to send their kids to private school, and tend to have more kids enrolled in tertiary institutions. School fees, particularly at the tertiary and vocational level, account for half of education expenditures among high-income HHs.

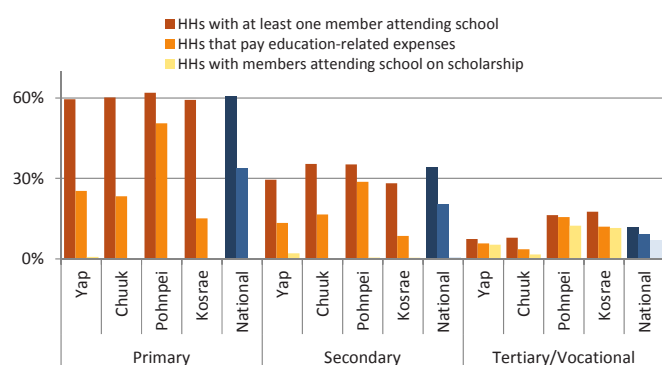
**Chart 13: Share of HH cash expenditure dedicated to education by quintile**



## Higher income HHs invest more in education

Education expenditure is not incurred by all HHs that have kids currently enrolled in school. In FSM, 60% of HHs have at least one member attending primary school; however only 34% pay for primary education. This means that a large number of HHs access primary education for free. The percentage of HHs with a child enrolled in school decreases at higher levels, as costs for secondary and tertiary/vocational education are higher. In FSM, 11.7% of HHs have at least one member currently attending tertiary/vocational education, and 9% of these HHs incur education-related expenses.

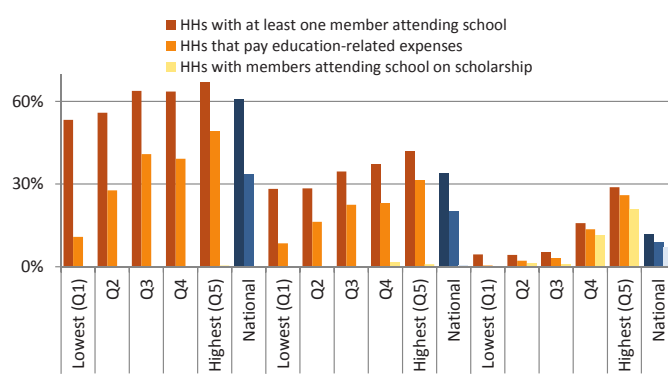
**Chart 14: Proportion of HHs that have at least one member currently attending school, and that incur any education-related expenditure, and which benefit from scholarship, by state**



In Kosrae, a large portion of the population have access to free schooling at the primary and secondary level, but in Pohnpei, HHs must contribute more to education (Chart 14). There are

almost no tertiary education options offered for free; 75% of the students who attend tertiary/vocational institutions pay for education. However, more than half of the students enrolled in post-secondary receive scholarships; though this percentage is heavily influenced by quintile (see Chart 15). Of the low-income students (Q1 and Q2) who attend tertiary institutions, 30% receive scholarships, compared to 85% among the high-income quintiles (Q4 and Q5). High-income HHs spend more on education at all levels; 18% of the HHs in Q1 with kids attending primary school pay for education materials, compared to almost 70% of Q5 HHs.

**Chart 15: Number of HHs with at least one member currently attending school that incur any education expenditure, and which benefit from scholarship, by quintile**



## Cost of education

The higher the level of education, the more expensive it is for HHs. On average, the annual cost for one child to attend preschool or primary school is approximately US\$50, while in secondary the fee is US\$90, and at the tertiary/vocational level the cost rises to US\$2050 (Chart 16).

**Chart 16: Average annual amount spent per child in school by level of education (in US\$)**

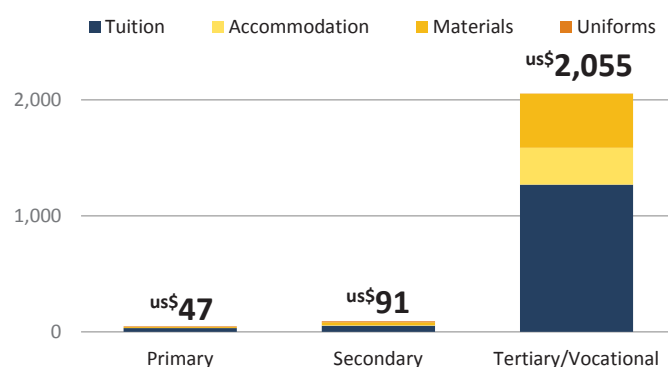


Chart 16 highlights the average cost of education per level, based on all students; however as mentioned above, some HHs do not pay tuition fees or accommodation. In order to determine the real cost of education incurred by the HHs, it is important to take into account only the HHs that incur education expenditures, and not those that have access to free

*Table 2: Portion of students who pay for education items and average annual spent by type of item, and by level*

	Pre-school/Elementary		Secondary		Tertiary		Average education	
	% Students	Amount spent (US\$)	% Students	Amount spent (US\$)	% Students	Amount spent (US\$)	% Students	Amount spent (US\$)
School fees	12	270	11	460	68	2,000	16	890
Accommodation	0	0	0	0	47	660	4	700
Materials	43	25	50	50	66	760	47	115
Uniform	27	20	32	30	8	43	27	25
Average education	51	95	58	157	76	2,840	54	430

schooling. Table 2 shows the actual amount paid by HHs that incur the education expenditure. For primary level, only 51% of attendees pay for education fees, and of those, the average cost is US\$95 per year. The main expense is school fees, but it is paid by only 12% of students; the average cost is US\$270 per year, and is typically for private school.

In FSM, only 16% of the tertiary/vocational education students pay tuition fees; this number is higher for tertiary education, where 68% of students pay for tuition. On average, when students pay tuition fees at the tertiary level, it costs US\$2,000 per year.

Overall, 76% of the students who attend tertiary institutions have to pay for education-related expenses, and the total cost for a student at this level amounts to US\$2,840 per year.

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*Credit: Patrik Nilsson*