Elementary & Secondary Education Revenue and Expenditures

Figure 1 – Sources of Revenue: School Years 1919-20 to 2013-14 (adjusted for inflation)


Figure 2 – Annual Changes in State and Local Revenue: School Years 2002-03 to 2013-14 (adjusted for inflation)

The chart to the left shows changes in combined state and local revenue from the prior school year, aggregated for all 50 states and D.C.

The impact of the Great Recession is on display. On top of deep cuts, public K-12 school systems have had to address rising costs owing to changes in student enrollment, pension liabilities, health benefits and—though more difficult to quantify—public expectations in school outcomes.

Looking ahead (see Figure 6), more than half of states face budget challenges for the 2017 or 2018 fiscal years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Data, selected years. Adjusted to SY2013-14 constant dollars using the Consumer Price Index. Calculations by NCSL.
Figure 3 – Per Pupil Current Expenditures: School Years 2001-02 to 2013-14
(adjusted for inflation)


Figure 5 – Inter-District Equity

This metric describes the difference in funding levels between a state’s highest-poverty quartile of districts and its lowest-poverty quartile of districts.

This bar chart can be adjusted based on the number of students living in poverty within each district. The adjustments assume additional dollars are needed to support students living in poverty. To view the adjusted chart, visit edtrust.org.

Source: Education Trust.

Figure 6 – State Budget Shortfalls: Fiscal Years 2017 & 2018

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