

## ***K-12 Education Spending Up an Inflation-Adjusted 15 Percent Over the Last Decade***

Nicholas W. Jenny  
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Expenditures per pupil on public primary and secondary education increased by nearly 15 percent from the 1991-92 school year to the current 2001-02 school year, adjusting for inflation, according to a report by the National Center For Education Statistics. Most of this increase occurred in the last five years, with per pupil spending up almost 12 percent since the 1996-97 school year. (See Table 1.)

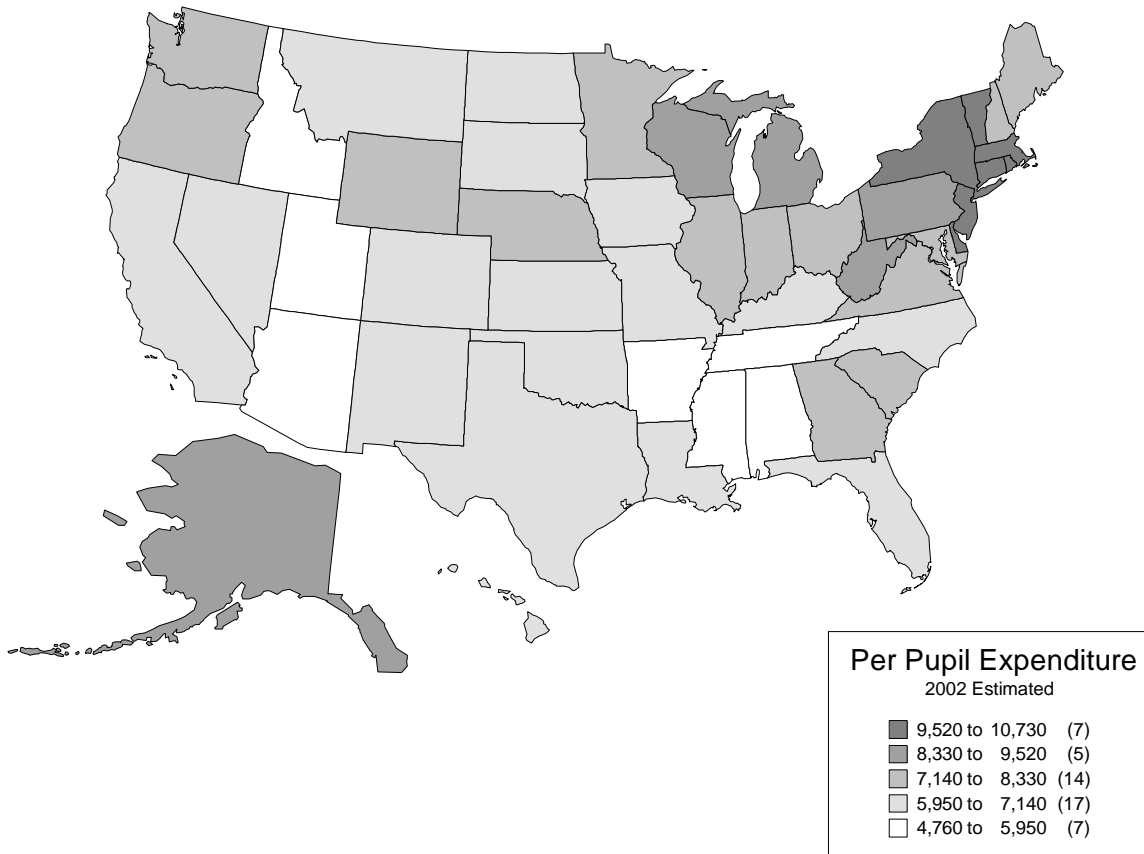
<b>Table 1.</b>					
<b>Percent Change in Per Pupil Expenditure for Elementary and Secondary Education Adjusted for Inflation</b>					
State	FY 1992 (Actual)	FY 1997 (Actual)	FY 2002 (Estimated)	% Change from FY 1997 to FY 2002	% Change from FY 1992 to FY 2002
West Virginia	\$6,011	\$6,806	\$8,742	22.2%	31.2%
Georgia	\$5,279	\$6,013	\$7,633	21.2%	30.8%
New Mexico	\$5,027	\$5,244	\$7,093	26.1%	29.1%
South Carolina	\$5,232	\$5,656	\$7,179	21.2%	27.1%
Alabama	\$4,371	\$5,146	\$5,937	13.3%	26.4%
Idaho	\$4,313	\$4,980	\$5,789	14.0%	25.5%
Mississippi	\$3,901	\$4,524	\$5,235	13.6%	25.5%
Delaware	\$7,166	\$7,991	\$9,612	16.9%	25.4%
Indiana	\$6,079	\$6,900	\$8,034	14.1%	24.3%
Utah	\$3,636	\$4,237	\$4,769	11.2%	23.7%
Rhode Island	\$7,797	\$8,526	\$10,216	16.5%	23.7%
Massachusetts	\$7,618	\$8,211	\$9,883	16.9%	22.9%
South Dakota	\$5,041	\$4,913	\$6,442	23.7%	21.8%
Ohio	\$6,548	\$6,647	\$8,308	20.0%	21.2%
Texas	\$5,435	\$5,899	\$6,833	13.7%	20.5%
Oklahoma	\$4,937	\$5,395	\$6,184	12.8%	20.2%
Tennessee	\$4,391	\$5,131	\$5,470	6.2%	19.7%
Washington	\$5,810	\$6,422	\$7,236	11.2%	19.7%
Maine	\$6,633	\$7,197	\$8,160	11.8%	18.7%
Oregon	\$6,743	\$6,630	\$8,280	19.9%	18.6%
Vermont	\$7,991	\$7,563	\$9,798	22.8%	18.4%
Louisiana	\$5,139	\$5,291	\$6,270	15.6%	18.0%
North Carolina	\$5,434	\$5,521	\$6,578	16.1%	17.4%
Minnesota	\$6,514	\$6,725	\$7,832	14.1%	16.8%
Kentucky	\$5,369	\$5,773	\$6,449	10.5%	16.8%
Missouri	\$5,484	\$5,940	\$6,574	9.6%	16.6%
Wyoming	\$6,845	\$6,688	\$8,203	18.5%	16.6%
Wisconsin	\$7,223	\$7,611	\$8,654	12.1%	16.5%

Nebraska	\$6,325	\$6,550	\$7,547	13.2%	16.2%
Arkansas	\$4,834	\$5,079	\$5,764	11.9%	16.1%
Illinois	\$6,403	\$6,653	\$7,598	12.4%	15.7%
Virginia	\$6,290	\$6,482	\$7,452	13.0%	15.6%
Kansas	\$5,830	\$6,169	\$6,906	10.7%	15.6%
New Hampshire	\$6,703	\$6,630	\$7,926	16.3%	15.4%
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$6,419</b>	<b>\$6,634</b>	<b>\$7,524</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
Michigan	\$7,355	\$7,764	\$8,611	9.8%	14.6%
North Dakota	\$5,312	\$5,384	\$6,173	12.8%	13.9%
Iowa	\$6,138	\$6,427	\$7,126	9.8%	13.9%
California	\$5,939	\$5,891	\$6,878	14.3%	13.7%
Montana	\$6,177	\$6,138	\$7,080	13.3%	12.8%
New York	\$9,576	\$9,548	\$10,725	11.0%	10.7%
Pennsylvania	\$7,843	\$7,959	\$8,673	8.2%	9.6%
Connecticut	\$9,753	\$9,609	\$10,517	8.6%	7.3%
Arizona	\$5,065	\$4,943	\$5,445	9.2%	7.0%
Nevada	\$5,818	\$5,694	\$6,134	7.2%	5.1%
Colorado	\$5,944	\$5,949	\$6,244	4.7%	4.8%
Hawaii	\$6,480	\$6,309	\$6,775	6.9%	4.4%
Maryland	\$7,585	\$7,565	\$7,847	3.6%	3.3%
Florida	\$6,170	\$6,003	\$6,232	3.7%	1.0%
Alaska	\$10,050	\$9,219	\$9,430	2.2%	-6.6%
New Jersey	\$11,143	\$10,738	\$9,596	-11.9%	-16.1%

West Virginia had the most rapid increase in per pupil spending in the last decade – over 31 percent. Georgia, New Mexico, South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Mississippi, and Delaware also had increase of over 25 percent. On the other hand, New Jersey’s per pupil spending on K-12 education decreased by over 16 percent over the last ten years, after adjusting for inflation. Spending in Alaska also was down in real terms, while Florida, Maryland, Hawaii, and Colorado had increases of less than five percent.

Current levels of per-pupil expenditures on K-12 education are shown in Figure 1. The highest spending levels are found in the Northeast, while the lowest spending levels are found in the Southeast and Rocky Mountain regions. This has been true for some time, but the data on state-by-state increases suggests that the regional differences may be decreasing.

**Figure 1.**  
**Per Pupil Expenditures for Primary and Secondary Education**



For more information see *Early Estimates of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics: School Year 2001–02* from the National Center For Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002311>

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government is the public policy research arm of the State University of New York. Nick Jenny is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Institute's Fiscal Studies Program. This release was prepared with the assistance of Haidy Brown, research assistant at the Institute.

**Contact Information:**

Fiscal Studies Program

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government

411 State Street

Albany, NY 12203-1003

(518) 443-5833

(518) 443-5274(fax)

[jennyn@rockinst.org](mailto:jennyn@rockinst.org)

[www.rockinst.org](http://www.rockinst.org)