



THE Budget IN Brief

The Budget In Brief is published periodically and analyzes the state budget in bite-sized pieces to help readers understand where their tax dollars are spent.

Public Education

Public education 1992-1993 appropriations totaled \$16.2 billion, a \$2.7 billion increase over the 1990-1991 spending level (see table below).

Public Education (Millions of \$)			
	1990-1991 Appropriated	1990-1991 Expended	1992-1993 Appropriated
Public Education Programs	\$12,746	\$13,373	\$16,040
State Administration	87	103	97
School for the Blind	19	19	20
School for the Deaf	24	26	26
Total	\$12,876	\$13,521	\$16,183

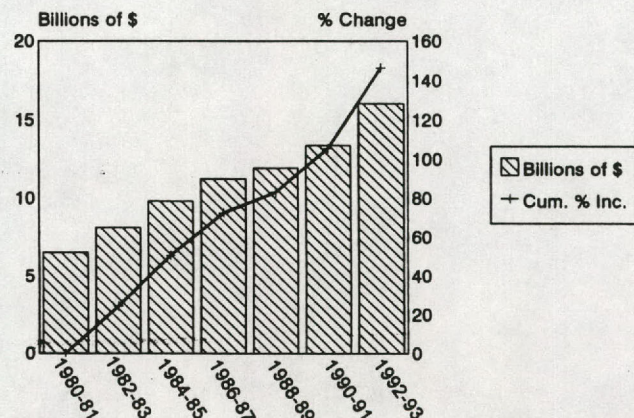
The only significant item included in this area is the \$16 billion allocated for public education programs — i.e., state aid to the local school districts. Not included in this amount is the state contribution to the teacher retirement system which is included elsewhere in the state accounts.

Over a decade (1980-1981 to 1990-1991), state allocations for public education programs have more than doubled — from \$6.5 billion to \$13.4 billion. Allocations for 1992-1993 brought the accumulated increase to 146% (see Figure 1).

Student enrollment is one of the driving forces in this budget area, but perhaps an even larger part of the increase has been (1) the result of the state chasing an elusive goal of inter-district funding equity, and (2) legislative attempts to relieve local school property tax pressures.

Figure 1

Public School Programs Biennial State Appropriations



That the state has been unsuccessful in the first instance is evidenced by the continued legislative debate over school finance equity. The failure in the second instance is reflected in the fact that local school property tax levies grew at an even faster rate than did state school aid.

In 1980, local school districts levied \$2.5 billion in property taxes; by 1991 the levy totaled \$7.6 billion. That amounts to an accumulated 207% growth (see Figure 2).

