

SECTION I

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE DATA

Section 1 contains four charts and two tables. These charts and tables illustrate some of the expenditure patterns in public education in Connecticut. They summarize in large part the detailed expenditures included in this report.

Chart 1: Local, State and Federal/Other Expenditures for Elementary and Secondary Education — Educational Expenditures in Dollars

Chart 1 illustrates the growth of elementary and secondary education expenditures from about \$4.5 billion in 1994-95 to just over \$6.1 billion in 1999-2000, a growth of 38.2 percent or just over \$1.7 billion. During that period, state expenditures grew by 48.6 percent or \$854 million. Local expenditures for that same period grew by 29.4 percent or \$736 million, and the federal/other category rose 55.8 percent or \$116 million.

Compared to previous years' publications, this chart has changed in two ways. First, in order to better demonstrate the five-year trend in educational expenditure patterns, all the intermediate years between the first and last year have been eliminated. Second, the order of the expenditures have been rearranged to list state dollars before local dollars.

Chart 2: Local, State and Federal/Other Expenditures for Elementary and Secondary Education — Percentage of Educational Expenditures by Source

Chart 2 portrays the state, local and federal/other education expenditures in terms of percentage share. Throughout this period (1994-95 through 1999-2000), the state share has increased by about 3.0 percentage points, the local share has decreased by 3.6 percentage points and the federal/other share has grown by just over 0.6 of a percentage point.

Table 1: Selected Current Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Current Expenditures: PK-12 and Elementary School Districts

Table 1 illustrates for PK-12 and elementary districts changes in the percentage of total current expenditures committed to several expenditure categories from 1995-96 through 1999-2000.

Chart 3: PK-12 Districts' 5-Year Aggregate Change in Selected Current Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Current Expenditures

Chart 3 highlights the shift in various expenditure categories since 1995-96 for PK-12 districts. Salaries, which make up the largest portion of selected current expenditures, have been declining from 1995-96 to present. The remaining categories posted moderate increases and decreases for the most part, and there were no dramatic shifts in any category over the five-year period.

Chart 4: Elementary Districts' 5-Year Aggregate Change in Selected Current Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Current Expenditures

Chart 4 highlights the shift in various expenditure categories since 1995-96 for elementary districts. Salaries had the largest decrease as a percentage of total expenditures. The remaining categories posted moderate increases and decreases for the most part, and there were no dramatic shifts in any category over the five-year period.

continued

SECTION I

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE DATA, continued

Table 2: Current Expenditures for Regular Education, Special Education and Pupil Transportation by Source

Table 2 illustrates the local, state and federal/other contributions for public elementary and secondary regular education, special education and pupil transportation for fiscal years 1997-98 through unaudited 1999-2000. For purposes of this analysis, the consolidated Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant revenue is assigned to regular education and special education proportionately, based on the ratio of the two revenue streams in the year prior to consolidation. On this basis, approximately 19 percent of the consolidated ECS grant is allocated to special education.

The percentage share of current expenditures from local, state and federal/other sources remained relatively stable over the past three years for regular education program expenditures and transportation program services. However, the state share of special education program expenditures increased in 1998-99, and then returned to the pre-1998-99 level. This was due to the state expanding one of its special education grant programs – Excess Costs for State Agency Placements. Prior to 1998-99, under this grant program the state reimbursed districts for 100 percent of the placement costs in excess of 2.5 times their net current expenditures per pupil (NCEP — see Section 4 for an explanation of NCEP). Since 1998-99, the threshold for state funding is now the NCEP rather than 2.5 times that number. The first year of this change had the effect of more than doubling the state grant and contributed to an increase in the state share of special education by more than one-half percent. However, in 1999-2000, as the overall costs of special education contributions grew at a faster rate than the state's contributions, the state share fell back to the pre-1998-99 rate. It appears that the effect of the infusion of new state special education dollars in 1998-99 had only a one-year effect on increasing the state share.

The state share for transportation continues to be lower than regular education and special education. The state's share for transportation is dependent on district transportation expenditures and the state's reimbursement scale. While over the years there have been new and expanded state grant initiatives for regular and special education, the reimbursement rates for transportation have remained constant.