

Section 1: 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 \$4.6 billion in 1995-96 to over \$6.5 billion in 2000-01, a growth of 41.8 percent or just over \$1.9 billion. During that period, state expenditures grew by 46.7 percent or \$857 million. Local expenditures for that same period grew by 36.1 percent or \$936 million, and the federal/other category rose 68.8 percent or \$143 million.

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 (1995-96 through 2000-01), the state share has increased by about 1.4 percentage points, the local share has decreased by 2.3 percentage points, and the federal/other share has grown by about 0.9 of a percentage point.

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

Table 1 illustrates for PK-12 and elementary districts changes in the percentage of total current expenditures less tuition and regional district assessment committed to several expenditure categories from 1996-97 through 2000-01.

Compared to previous years' publications, this table has changed. Tuition has been excluded to reflect the in-district expenditures that are attributable to the local boards of education.

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(continued)**

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

Chart 3 highlights the shift in various in-district expenditure categories from 1996-97 to 2000-01 for PK-12 districts. Salaries, which make up the largest portion of selected current expenditures, is the only category that decreased in the five-year period. The remaining categories posted slight increases 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 1996-97 for elementary districts. With tuition and the assessment of secondary regional school districts' member towns being excluded from this analysis, Salaries make up the largest portion of selected current expenditures. Salaries have the largest decrease as a percentage of total expenditures. The remaining categories posted slight increases and decreases for the most part, with Supplies showing the largest increase in any category over the five-year period.

Overall, in looking at in-district expenditures, PK-12 and elementary districts display similar spending patterns.

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 1998-99 through unaudited 2000-01. 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, statewide approximately 19 percent of the consolidated ECS grant is allocated to special education, although this will vary from town to town.

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. The same pattern is true for special education program expenditures for the last two years.

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.