

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 \$4.8 billion in 1996-97 to over \$6.8 billion in 2001-02, a growth of 42.3 percent or just over \$2.0 billion. During that period, state expenditures grew by almost 50 percent or \$931 million. Local expenditures for that same period grew by 33.3 percent or \$922 million, and the federal/other category rose 93.2 percent or \$193 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 (1996-97 through 2001-02), the state share has increased by about 2.0 percentage points, the local share has decreased by 3.6 percentage points, and the federal/other share has grown by about 1.6 percentage points.

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 1997-98 through 2001-02.

SECTION 1

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE DATA, 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 1997-98 to 2001-02 for PK-12 districts. Salaries, which make up the largest portion of selected current expenditures, had the largest decrease of any category in the five-year period. Supplies and property showed a slight decrease over the five-year period. The remaining categories posted increases for the most part, with Employee Benefits being the largest. 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 1997-98 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, with Purchased Services close behind. The remaining categories posted slight increases and decreases for the most part, with Employee Benefits 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 1999-2000 through unaudited 2001-02. 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.

Over the past three years, for regular education and special education program expenditures the local and federal/other percentages have been increasing while the state percentage has been decreasing. For transportation program expenditures, the state share increased this past year after falling in the previous year.

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.