

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 \$5.2 billion in 1997-98 to almost \$7.2 billion in 2002-03, a growth of 38.0 percent or \$2.0 billion. During that period, state expenditures grew by 38.6 percent or \$790 million. Local expenditures for that same period grew by 34.2 percent or \$995 million, and the federal/other category rose 77.1 percent or \$195 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 (1997-98 through 2002-03), the state share has increased by 0.2 percentage points, the local share has decreased by 1.6 percentage points, and the federal/other share has grown by about 1.4 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 1998-99 through 2002-03.

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 1998-99 to 2002-03 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, while Employee Benefits had the largest increase. The remaining categories posted slight increases or decreases. 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 1998-99 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 had the largest decrease as a percentage of total expenditures. Employee Benefits had the largest increase as a percentage of total expenditures. The remaining categories posted slight increases or decreases.

Overall, in looking at in-district expenditures, PK-12 and elementary districts displayed 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 2000-01 through unaudited 2002-03. 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 has been increasing while the state percentage have been decreasing. For transportation program expenditures, the local share has increased while the state share has decreased and the federal/other share has remained about the same. Note that in 2002-03 statutory caps were placed on the pupil transportation and excess cost grants, which had the effect of reducing these grants by approximately 17 percent.