

Table 3

Per Pupil Expenditure Summary

Disparity	NCEP 2001-02	NCEP 2002-03	Unaudited NCEP 2003-04	RPENS 2001-02	RPENS 2002-03	Unaudited RPENS 2003-04
95th Percentile Town	\$11,835	\$12,257	\$12,938	\$9,278	\$9,818	\$10,288
Median Town	\$8,890	\$9,307	\$9,752	\$6,838	\$7,131	\$7,313
5th Percentile Town	\$7,745	\$8,103	\$8,460	\$5,711	\$5,976	\$6,120
95:5 Percentile Ratio	1.53	1.51	1.53	1.62	1.64	1.68
Wealthiest Quintile	\$10,256	\$10,840	\$11,322	\$8,040	\$8,409	\$8,792
Poorest Quintile	\$10,607	\$10,956	\$11,107	\$5,835	\$5,942	\$5,973
Wealthiest:Poorest Quintile Ratio	0.97	0.99	1.02	1.38	1.42	1.47

The table above displays for 2001-02 through unaudited 2003-04 both the traditional net current expenditure per pupil (NCEP) and the MER-related regular program expenditures per need student (RPENS). As noted below, these measures of spending have very different statutory definitions that account in part for the different pattern in the wealthiest/poorest ratios.

The median town represents the middle town when ranked from lowest to highest. For the purpose of this analysis, the 95th percentile town represents the 9th highest-spending town, and the 5th percentile town represents the 9th lowest-spending town. A 95:5 ratio is a common measure of how great a disparity exists between low- and high-spending towns. The higher the ratio, the greater the disparity that exists between the two points of measurement. From 2001-02 through 2003-04, median NCEP increased by 9.7 percent, while RPENS increased by 7.0 percent. During this same period, the 95:5 ratio for NCEP started and then returned to 1.53. The 95:5 ratio for RPENS increased from 1.62 to 1.68. These figures suggest a widening of the gap between the very highest spending towns and the lowest spending towns.

For the purpose of this analysis, the quintiles represent five equal groupings of resident students based on town wealth as defined in the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant. While each quintile contains 20 percent of the resident students in the state, the number of districts may vary among quintiles. Rather than focusing on single-town values as the 95:5 ratio does, the quintile figures focus on significant numbers of students from more than a dozen communities at opposite ends of the wealth spectrum. For 2003-04, the ratio for NCEP was at 1.02, which indicates that the wealthiest group of towns was spending on a per pupil basis more than the poorest group. In previous years, the poorest group of towns had been spending above their wealthiest counterparts. Supplemental federal and state aid that is targeted primarily to the group of poorer communities in prior years had enabled this group to maintain their higher per pupil spending on average with the level of the state's most affluent communities. This is particularly true for some of the larger urban communities, which educate the majority of the state's students in the poorest quintile. The same pattern does not hold for RPENS, primarily because state and federal funds and locally supported special education are discounted from regular program expenditures and the unit of measure in RPENS is weighted need students. Using weighted need students and not counting supplemental state and federal grants has a greater impact on RPENS in the neediest towns because of the relative concentration of student weighting, supplemental state and federal aid and special education in those towns.

**Resident Student-Based Quintiles
for Table 3 Data
Grouped by ECS Town Wealth**

Group 1 - Poorest

015 BRIDGEPORT	064 HARTFORD	093 NEW HAVEN	104 NORWICH	151 WATERBURY
058 GRISWOLD	089 NEW BRITAIN	095 NEW LONDON	109 PLAINFIELD	163 WINDHAM

Group 2

001 ANDOVER	037 DERBY	071 LEBANON	112 POMFRET	140 THOMASTON
002 ANSONIA	039 EASTFORD	072 LEDYARD	114 PRESTON	141 THOMPSON
003 ASHFORD	043 EAST HARTFORD	073 LISBON	116 PUTNAM	143 TORRINGTON
017 BRISTOL	044 EAST HAVEN	078 MANSFIELD	121 SALEM	146 VERNON
019 BROOKLYN	048 ELLINGTON	080 MERIDEN	123 SCOTLAND	147 VOLUNTOWN
022 CANTERBURY	049 ENFIELD	086 MONTVILLE	124 SEYMOUR	156 WEST HAVEN
024 CHAPLIN	058 GRISWOLD	088 NAUGATUCK	133 SPRAGUE	162 WINCHESTER
028 COLCHESTER	063 HAMPTON	110 PLAINVILLE	134 STAFFORD	166 WOLCOTT
032 COVENTRY	069 KILLINGLY	111 PLYMOUTH	136 STERLING	169 WOODSTOCK

Group 3

006 BEACON FALLS	042 EAST HAMPTON	077 MANCHESTER	102 NORTH STONINGTON	142 TOLLAND
012 BOLTON	045 EAST LYME	079 MARLBOROUGH	110 PLAINVILLE	148 WALLINGFORD
013 BOZRAH	047 EAST WINDSOR	082 MIDDLEFIELD	113 PORTLAND	153 WATERTOWN
020 BURLINGTON	053 FRANKLIN	083 MIDDLETOWN	115 PROSPECT	160 WILLINGTON
027 CLINTON	056 GRANBY	092 NEW HARTFORD	129 SOMERS	164 WINDSOR
029 COLEBROOK	059 GROTON	094 NEWINGTON	131 SOUTHWINGTON	
030 COLUMBIA	062 HAMDEN	096 NEW MILFORD	132 SOUTH WINDSOR	
038 DURHAM	065 HARTLAND	099 NORTH BRANFORD	138 STRATFORD	
041 EAST HADDAM	067 HEBRON	100 NORTH CANAAN	139 SUFFIELD	

Group 4

005 BARKHAMSTED	023 CANTON	060 GUILFORD	091 NEW FAIRFIELD	137 STONINGTON
007 BERLIN	025 CHESHIRE	061 HADDAM	097 NEWTOWN	139 SUFFIELD
008 BETHANY	026 CHESTER	066 HARWINTON	101 NORTH HAVEN	145 UNION
009 BETHEL	033 CROMWELL	070 KILLINGWORTH	108 OXFORD	154 WESTBROOK
010 BETHLEHEM	034 DANBURY	074 LITCHFIELD	119 ROCKY HILL	155 WEST HARTFORD
011 BLOOMFIELD	036 DEEP RIVER	084 MILFORD	126 SHELTON	159 WETHERSFIELD
014 BRANFORD	040 EAST GRANBY	085 MONROE	128 SIMSBURY	165 WINDSOR LOCKS
021 CANAAN	054 GLASTONBURY	087 MORRIS	130 SOUTHBURY	168 WOODBURY

Group 5 - Wealthiest

004 AVON	052 FARMINGTON	098 NORFOLK	122 SALISBURY	152 WATERFORD
016 BRIDGEWATER	055 GOSHEN	103 NORWALK	125 SHARON	157 WESTON
018 BROOKFIELD	057 GREENWICH	105 OLD LYME	127 SHERMAN	158 WESTPORT
031 CORNWALL	068 KENT	106 OLD SAYBROOK	130 SOUTHBURY	161 WILTON
035 DARIEN	075 LYME	107 ORANGE	135 STAMFORD	167 WOODBRIDGE
046 EASTON	076 MADISON	117 REDDING	144 TRUMBULL	
050 ESSEX	081 MIDDLEBURY	118 RIDGEFIELD	149 WARREN	
051 FAIRFIELD	090 NEW CANAAN	120 ROXBURY	150 WASHINGTON	

In order to achieve equal resident student quintile groupings, some towns' students are split between two quintile groups.