

Table 3

Per Pupil Expenditure Summary

Disparity	NCEP 2002-03	NCEP 2003-04	NCEP 2004-05	RPENS 2002-03	RPENS 2003-04	RPENS 2004-05
95th Percentile Town	\$12,257	\$12,938	\$13,877	\$10,099	\$10,309	\$11,089
Median Town	\$9,307	\$9,755	\$10,223	\$7,423	\$7,339	\$7,629
5th Percentile Town	\$8,103	\$8,511	\$8,706	\$6,153	\$6,118	\$6,428
95:5 Percentile Ratio	1.51	1.52	1.59	1.64	1.69	1.73
Wealthiest Quintile	\$10,840	\$11,326	\$11,858	\$8,887	\$8,792	\$9,208
Poorest Quintile	\$10,956	\$11,116	\$11,617	\$6,016	\$5,958	\$6,213
Wealthiest:Poorest Quintile Ratio	0.99	1.02	1.02	1.48	1.48	1.48

The table above displays for 2002-03 through unaudited 2004-05 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 2002-03 through 2004-05, median NCEP increased by 9.8 percent, while RPENS increased by 2.8 percent. During this same period, the 95:5 ratio for NCEP increased from 1.51 to 1.59. The 95:5 ratio for RPENS increased from 1.64 to 1.73. 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 2004-05, 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	080 MERIDEN	093 NEW HAVEN	104 NORWICH	151 WATERBURY
064 HARTFORD	089 NEW BRITAIN	095 NEW LONDON	109 PLAINFIELD	163 WINDHAM

Group 2

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

Group 3

001 ANDOVER	047 EAST WINDSOR	082 MIDDLEFIELD	121 SALEM	159 WETHERSFIELD
011 BLOOMFIELD	048 ELLINGTON	083 MIDDLETOWN	129 SOMERS	160 WILLINGTON
012 BOLTON	053 FRANKLIN	094 NEWINGTON	131 SOUTHTON	164 WINDSOR
013 BOZRAH	056 GRANBY	096 NEW MILFORD	132 SOUTH WINDSOR	165 WINDSOR LOCKS
030 COLUMBIA	059 GROTON	099 NORTH BRANFORD	138 STRATFORD	
038 DURHAM	062 HAMDEN	100 NORTH CANAAN	139 SUFFIELD	
039 EASTFORD	065 HARTLAND	102 NORTH STONINGTON	142 TOLLAND	
042 EAST HAMPTON	067 HEBRON	113 PORTLAND	148 WALLINGFORD	
045 EAST LYME	077 MANCHESTER	115 PROSPECT	153 WATERTOWN	

Group 4

005 BARKHAMSTED	025 CHESHIRE	054 GLASTONBURY	087 MORRIS	130 SOUTHBURY
007 BERLIN	026 CHESTER	061 HADDAM	091 NEW FAIRFIELD	137 STONINGTON
008 BETHANY	027 CLINTON	066 HARWINTON	092 NEW HARTFORD	145 UNION
009 BETHEL	029 COLEBROOK	070 KILLINGWORTH	101 NORTH HAVEN	154 WESTBROOK
010 BETHLEHEM	033 CROMWELL	074 LITCHFIELD	103 NORWALK	155 WEST HARTFORD
011 BLOOMFIELD	034 DANBURY	079 MARLBOROUGH	108 OXFORD	168 WOODBURY
014 BRANFORD	036 DEEP RIVER	081 MIDDLEBURY	119 ROCKY HILL	
020 BURLINGTON	040 EAST GRANBY	084 MILFORD	126 SHELTON	
023 CANTON	041 EAST HADDAM	085 MONROE	128 SIMSBURY	

Group 5 - Wealthiest

004 AVON	051 FAIRFIELD	090 NEW CANAAN	118 RIDGEFIELD	150 WASHINGTON
016 BRIDGEWATER	052 FARMINGTON	097 NEWTOWN	120 ROXBURY	152 WATERFORD
018 BROOKFIELD	055 GOSHEN	098 NORFOLK	122 SALISBURY	157 WESTON
021 CANAAN	057 GREENWICH	103 NORWALK	125 SHARON	158 WESTPORT
031 CORNWALL	060 GUILFORD	105 OLD LYME	127 SHERMAN	161 WILTON
035 DARIEN	068 KENT	106 OLD SAYBROOK	135 STAMFORD	167 WOODBRIDGE
046 EASTON	075 LYME	107 ORANGE	144 TRUMBULL	
050 ESSEX	076 MADISON	117 REDDING	149 WARREN	

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