

# the condition of education 2002



## INDICATOR 42

# Public Effort to Fund Education

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2002*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2002*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002025>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

### Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2002*, NCES 2002-025, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

## NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

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U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement



# Public Financial Support

## Public Effort to Fund Education

*At the elementary and secondary education level, public revenue per student has increased since the mid-1970s. At the postsecondary level, public revenue per student has fluctuated within a narrow band without showing a consistent increase since the mid-1970s.*

Public support for education can be assessed by measuring the level of public investment per student and the collective effort in the aggregate. This indicator discusses both measures, using public revenue per student as an index of average public resources available to support students, and total public revenue for education as a percentage of total personal income as an index of collective effort. The second index can be interpreted either as a measure of the financial responsibility borne by the public to provide for education or as a measure of *affordability* that gauges how much investment per student the public provides relative to its capacity to make such support available (see *Supplemental Note 13*).

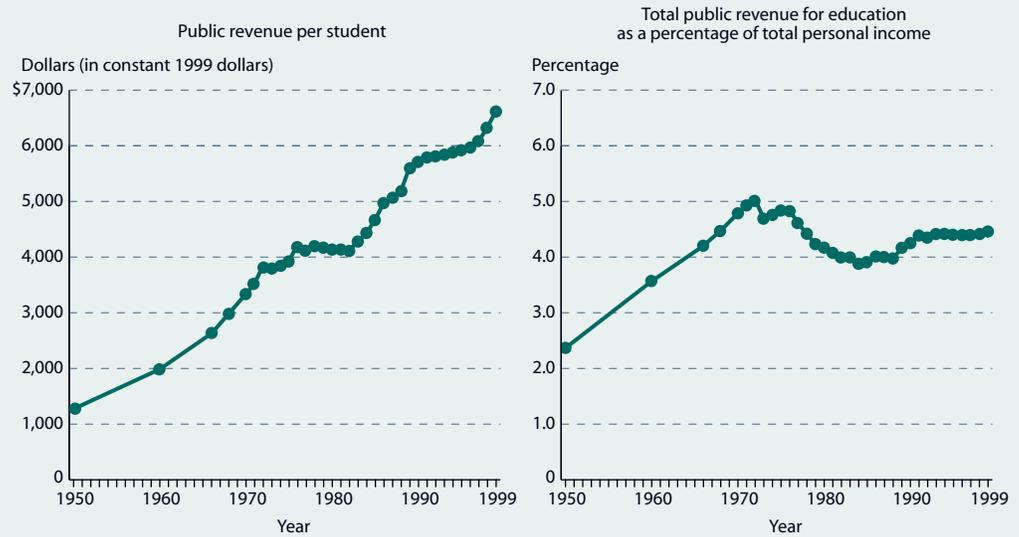
Public revenue per student at the elementary/secondary level has generally increased between 1950 and 1999. This reflects the generally greater increase in total public revenue in inflation-adjusted dollars for elementary/secondary education than in enrollments between 1950 and 1999. These changes in public revenue per student have not coincided with the patterns in the index of collective effort for elementary/secondary education. Public revenue for elementary/secondary education as a percentage of total personal income increased from 1950 until the first half of the 1970s. This percentage then generally declined until the late 1980s, recovered some of its value through the early 1990s, and remained relatively constant through 1999 (see supplemental tables 42-1 and 42-2).

The patterns in public revenue per student for postsecondary education between 1950 and 1996 differ from those for elementary/secondary education. After rising from 1950 to the mid-1970s, public revenue per student has fluctuated within a relatively narrow band of values ranging from \$3,200 to \$4,000 (see supplemental table 42-1). The lack of a consistent increase in public revenues per student since the mid-1970s has coincided in part with a general increase in private effort. Between 1980 and 1996, tuition and fees charged to students by public degree-granting institutions increased their share of total current fund revenues from 13 to 19 percent, while state appropriations as a share of total current fund revenue for public degree-granting institutions decreased from 45 to 33 percent (see supplemental table 42-3).

After showing an increasing trend from 1950 to the mid-1970s, public revenue for postsecondary education as a percentage of total personal income generally declined until 1996. The decrease in the index was mostly brought about by differing growth patterns for its components: between 1976 and 1996, total personal income increased in all but 2 years, while total public revenue for postsecondary education actually declined in 10 of these years. In fact, the latter effect has been more apparent since the 1990s, with public revenue for postsecondary education declining in 5 of the 7 years between 1990 and 1996 (see supplemental tables 42-1 and 42-2).



**PUBLIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Indicators of public effort to fund elementary and secondary education: Selected years 1950–99**



**PUBLIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Indicators of public effort to fund postsecondary education: Selected years 1950–99**



NOTE: Public funds for postsecondary education may be used at many types of institutions, both publicly and privately controlled. Enrollment in both publicly and privately controlled institutions is included. For more information about the calculation of the indexes, see *Supplemental Note 13*. All values for total public revenue for education at both the elementary and secondary and postsecondary levels are in 1999 constant dollars. See *Supplemental Note 13* for information on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *Digest of Education Statistics 2001* (NCES 2002-134); (2001) *Digest of Education Statistics 2000* (NCES 2001-034); (various years: 1964–1997) *Digest of Education Statistics*; (1993) *120 Years of American Education: A Statistical Portrait* (NCES 93-442).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Supplemental Note 13  
 Supplemental Tables 42-1,  
 42-2, 42-3

## Public Effort to Fund Education

Table 42-1 Indicators of public effort to fund education (in constant 1999 dollars), by level: Selected school years ending 1950–99

School year ending	Public revenue per student*		Total public revenue as a percentage of total personal income	
	Elementary/secondary education	Postsecondary education	Elementary/secondary education	Postsecondary education
1950	\$1,304	\$1,663	2.37	0.30
1960	2,008	2,652	3.57	0.43
1966	2,659	3,334	4.19	0.61
1968	3,024	3,673	4.47	0.75
1970	3,342	3,626	4.79	0.81
1971	3,528	3,647	4.92	0.85
1972	3,837	3,727	5.03	0.85
1973	3,807	3,808	4.68	0.85
1974	3,851	3,798	4.75	0.89
1975	3,934	3,731	4.84	0.94
1976	4,216	3,635	4.83	0.95
1977	4,132	3,740	4.60	0.93
1978	4,216	3,741	4.41	0.91
1979	4,187	3,662	4.23	0.87
1980	4,145	3,485	4.17	0.87
1981	4,148	3,305	4.08	0.85
1982	4,124	3,222	3.98	0.84
1983	4,297	3,275	3.99	0.84
1984	4,439	3,351	3.85	0.81
1985	4,675	3,671	3.91	0.84
1986	4,976	3,943	4.02	0.87
1987	5,077	3,786	4.00	0.83
1988	5,185	3,794	3.97	0.81
1989	5,609	3,834	4.17	0.82
1990	5,721	3,723	4.25	0.82
1991	5,808	3,607	4.39	0.81
1992	5,822	3,440	4.35	0.78
1993	5,849	3,362	4.41	0.76
1994	5,901	3,402	4.42	0.74
1995	5,931	3,468	4.40	0.74
1996	5,973	3,438	4.39	0.71
1997	6,086	—	4.40	—
1998	6,329	—	4.41	—
1999	6,619	—	4.46	—

—Not available.

\*See *Supplemental Note 13* for information on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

NOTE: Public funds for postsecondary education may be used at many types of institutions, both publicly and privately controlled. Enrollment in both publicly and privately controlled institutions is included. For more information about the indexes, see *Supplemental Note 13*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, (2002). *Digest of Education Statistics 2001* (NCES 2002–134); (various years: 1964–1997) *Digest of Education Statistics: (1993) 120 Years of American Education: A Statistical Portrait* (NCES 93–442).

## Public Effort to Fund Education

**Table 42-2** Indicators of public revenue for education, total personal income (in constant 1999 dollars), and total enrollments, by level: Selected years ending 1950–99 (in billions of dollars)

School year ending	Total public revenue <sup>1</sup>		Total personal income <sup>1</sup>	Total enrollment	
	Elementary/secondary education	Postsecondary education <sup>2</sup>		Elementary/secondary education	Postsecondary Education
1950	\$37.2	\$4.4	\$1,570.0	28,491 <sup>3</sup>	2,659 <sup>3</sup>
1960	82.0	9.7	2,294.4	40,857	3,640
1966	128.9	19.7	3,079.2	49,239	6,390
1968	150.9	25.4	3,379.1	50,744	7,513
1970	170.6	29.0	3,563.7	51,257	8,581
1971	180.8	31.3	3,677.0	51,271	8,949
1972	196.7	33.4	3,911.4	50,726	9,215
1973	193.1	35.1	4,125.1	50,445	9,602
1974	194.3	36.5	4,088.8	50,073	10,224
1975	197.0	38.1	4,070.6	49,819	11,185
1976	205.8	40.7	4,264.8	49,478	11,012
1977	204.4	41.2	4,443.3	48,717	11,286
1978	205.4	42.2	4,660.9	47,637	11,260
1979	199.4	41.2	4,718.0	46,651	11,570
1980	193.4	40.3	4,638.9	46,208	12,097
1981	191.7	40.0	4,702.8	45,544	12,372
1982	187.8	39.9	4,719.2	45,166	12,426
1983	194.1	40.7	4,867.1	44,967	12,465
1984	199.6	41.8	5,185.7	44,908	12,242
1985	210.0	44.9	5,375.4	44,979	12,247
1986	223.8	48.3	5,571.6	45,205	12,504
1987	229.5	47.3	5,736.7	45,487	12,767
1988	235.9	48.4	5,942.6	45,430	13,055
1989	254.8	50.1	6,103.8	45,741	13,539
1990	262.6	50.4	6,173.2	46,451	13,819
1991	269.7	49.8	6,142.1	47,322	14,359
1992	275.0	49.4	6,320.2	48,145	14,487
1993	281.9	48.7	6,386.5	48,813	14,305
1994	288.8	48.7	6,535.6	49,609	14,279
1995	294.8	49.5	6,693.2	50,502	14,262
1996	301.6	49.0	6,864.5	51,375	14,368
1997	312.7	—	7,109.9	51,968	( <sup>4</sup> )
1998	328.9	—	7,459.0	52,476	( <sup>4</sup> )
1999	347.3	—	7,789.6	52,875	( <sup>4</sup> )

—Not available.

<sup>1</sup>See *Supplemental Note 13* for information on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

<sup>2</sup>Total public revenue for years earlier than 1970 are based on a linear interpolation of the share of appropriations of total current-fund revenue based on 1970–96.

<sup>3</sup>Enrollments are for 1949–50.

<sup>4</sup>Not provided since revenue data are not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *Digest of Education Statistics 2001* (NCES 2002–134); (various years: 1964–1997) *Digest of Education Statistics*; (1993) *120 Years of American Education: A Statistical Portrait* (NCES 93–442).

## Public Effort to Fund Education

**Table 42-3** Tuitions and fees and state government appropriations as a percentage of total current fund revenue of all public degree-granting institutions: 1950–96

School year ending	Tuition and fees as a percentage of total current fund revenue	State appropriations as a percentage of total current fund revenue
1950	—	—
1960	8.8	33.1
1966	11.5	39.6
1968	11.6	39.9
1970	12.6	40.2
1971	13.1	40.0
1972	13.7	39.7
1973	13.4	40.1
1974	12.9	41.2
1975	12.8	42.5
1976	13.0	43.1
1977	13.2	43.0
1978	13.1	44.3
1979	12.7	44.8
1980	12.5	44.8
1981	12.9	44.0
1982	13.5	43.8
1983	14.5	43.3
1984	14.9	42.8
1985	14.5	43.6
1986	14.5	43.2
1987	14.7	41.6
1988	15.0	41.3
1989	15.2	40.2
1990	15.5	39.2
1991	16.1	37.8
1992	17.1	35.8
1993	18.0	34.3
1994	18.4	33.3
1995	18.4	32.5
1996	18.8	32.5

—Not available separately for public degree-granting institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (various years: 1964–2000). *Digest of Education Statistics*.