

How Minnesota Public School Spending Stacks Up

Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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How does Minnesota stack up on per pupil spending?

According to the most current Census of Governments (COG) for FY 2002, Minnesota has fallen below the national average for per pupil spending for the first time since the COG began collecting the data 13 years ago. An NCES study with data from 1970 through 1992 showed that Minnesota never dropped below the average during that time period.

How does Minnesota stack up in growth in per pupil spending?

According to a report by The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, Minnesota ranked 46th in the nation in growth in per-pupil spending on K-12 education between 1997 and 2002.

How does Minnesota stack up on per pupil spending relative to per capita income?

In 2003, Minnesota ranked 28th in current spending per \$1,000 of personal income (in 1995, Minnesota ranked 12th).

Has inflation eroded school funding?

The basic formula would have to increase by an additional \$500 to keep pace with inflation since 1992.

How is funding balanced between property poor and property wealthy districts?

A recent *Education Week* study showed that on average property poor districts in Minnesota actually receive *more* funding than property wealthy districts. Minnesota is one of only 10 states in the nation in which this is the case.

Does Minnesota have the second highest taxes in the nation?

Minnesota *state* taxes per capita are second highest in the nation but Minnesota *local* taxes are 32nd highest in the nation. State taxes in Minnesota are high because taxes collected at the state level are used to hold down local property taxes. It is misleading to cite the state tax rank without including the local property tax rank. Also, taxes may be higher in Minnesota but wages and income are higher as well. If you calculate all government revenue as a percentage of personal income, Minnesota ranks 24th in the nation.