

# **How Rhode Island School Finances Compare**

**2008 Edition**



**RIPEC**

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# RIPEC Mission Statement

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RIPEC is an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan public policy research and education organization dedicated to the advancement of effective, efficient and equitable government in Rhode Island.

Through in-depth research, program monitoring, advocacy and public information activities, RIPEC:

- Suggests approaches to help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government agencies;
- Promotes fiscal responsibility and sound management practices;
- Assists elected officials and their staffs in the development of sound policies and programs;
- Enhances understanding between the private sector and state and local governments;
- Provides objective information and conducts educational programs for the benefit of Council members, public officials, and the general public;
- Builds coalitions with other community groups to promote sound public policies; and
- Promotes a public policy agenda to foster a climate for economic opportunity.

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## I. Introduction

The provision of education is one of the most difficult policy challenges faced by state and local governments. Based on the most recent data from the United States Census Bureau, education spending represents the largest expenditure category for state and local budgets, accounting for almost 24 percent of state and local spending nationwide in fiscal year 2005. Further, the cost and quality of education has a multi-faceted impact, including the ability of state and local governments to fund other programs, business and individual location decisions, and the economic capability of state residents. As such, multiple, competing interests must be taken into consideration and balanced when developing state and local budgets.

Policymakers must answer questions such as: what role should the State government play in funding schools, what is an adequate level of education spending, and how should the State equalize local fiscal capacity?

The answers to these questions begin with uniform and comparable education finance data. This publication uses data from the National Education Association's *Rankings and Estimates of the States* for school years 1996-1997 and 2006-2007. While there are multiple sources for comparative education spending data, NEA data is the most current information available and therefore gives a contemporary picture of education expenditures.

There are a number of ways to examine education finance. The most common measure is per pupil spending, which refers to the total amount of education expenditures (state, local and federal), divided by the number of students enrolled in the fall. Another way to measure education expenditures is per \$1,000 of personal income, which reflects the affordability of education for residents. Education finance decisions are not restricted to expenditures – revenues are also an important part of the education finance picture. The source of education revenue provides important information on the distribution of the burden of financing education.

The purpose of the following analysis is to provide policymakers and taxpayers with the historical perspective and data necessary to begin to evaluate Rhode Island's school funding system. This analysis outlines how Rhode Island's expenditures and revenues compare with other states, and provides a ten-year trend analysis of the Ocean State's education finance patterns in comparison to our neighboring states and the national average. As a complement to this report, RIPEC will publish "*Results: Education in Rhode Island, 2008*", which will provide information on education finance, student performance and demographics in the State.

In addition to the data from the National Education Association (school years 1996-1997 and 2006-2007) this report uses two other data sources. Personal income calculations were made using Bureau of Economic Analysis income data for the calendar years 1996 and 2006 and the Census Bureau population estimates for July 1, 1996 and July 1, 2006. All dollar figures are expressed in current dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

This report is divided into five sections:

- Section I, Introduction
- Section II, RIPEC Highlights, provides a brief overview of the findings in the report and highlights issues of particular concern to RIPEC.
- Section III, Analysis, presents RIPEC findings in greater detail and includes five summary tables which compare education finance in Rhode Island to Connecticut, Massachusetts and the United States average.
- Section IV, Education Finance Tables, show how Rhode Island compares to the 49 other states and the national average on education expenditures and revenues, teacher and instructional staff salaries, and personal income per capita.
- Section V, the Glossary, is an explanation of the terms used in this report.

## II. RIPEC Highlights

Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut have many similar characteristics with regard to how they finance public education: all three states rank in the top 10 for per pupil expenditures; they rely heavily on local property tax revenues to finance education; and they have some of the highest teacher and instructional staff salaries in the country.

The ten-year trend, however, shows Rhode Island moving against the prevailing national and regional trends with regard to school finance. While many states across the country have reduced their reliance on locally-generated revenue to finance education, Rhode Island has continued to increase the portion of education funded by the property tax. Since 1996-97, the amount of local revenues as a percent of total education revenues rose by 6.2 percent and Rhode Island has gone up in the rankings from 12<sup>th</sup> highest to 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the country.

Major findings of the report include:

- Per pupil education expenditures across the country have increased at a significant rate over the past ten years. The national average increase was 60.6 percent.
- In Rhode Island, per pupil expenditures have increased 56.3 percent since the 1996-97 school year, slightly outpacing the rate of increase in Connecticut (55.0 percent) and lagging behind Massachusetts (79.6 percent).
- In 1997, Rhode Island ranked 7<sup>th</sup> highest for per pupil expenditures; in 2007 the State was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> highest.
- While Rhode Island spends less than both Connecticut and Massachusetts on a per pupil basis, the Ocean State significantly outspends its neighbors when education expenditures as a percent of personal income are considered.
- On a per \$1,000 of personal income basis Rhode Island has seen slower growth in education expenditures than Massachusetts; however, the Ocean State has seen education expenditures per \$1,000 of personal income increase faster than both Connecticut and the national average.
- Rhode Island ranked 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the country for current education expenditures per \$1,000 of personal income in 2006-07 and 18<sup>th</sup> highest in 1996-97. Connecticut and Massachusetts also rose in the national rankings, from 31<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> highest, and 38<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> highest, respectively.
- Rhode Island continues to depend more heavily on property taxes to finance education than the rest of New England and the country. Over 60 percent of education revenues came from local sources in 2007, an increase of 6.2 percent from 1997. Nationally, 43.5 percent of education revenues came from local sources in 2006-07.

- The Ocean State ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in the country for the percentage of total education revenues provided by State in 2006-07. While 47.6 percent of education revenues came from state sources nationally, in Rhode Island 36.2 percent of revenues were from the State.
- Rhode Island's teacher salaries experienced a slightly lower rate of growth than the national average, and have fallen one spot in the rankings from 7<sup>th</sup> highest to 8<sup>th</sup> highest; however, as is the case in both Massachusetts and Connecticut, teacher salaries in the Ocean State continue to be higher than the national average.
- Instructional staff salaries (which includes all staff directly related to students and their education) in Rhode Island increased at a faster pace than those in the rest of the country. Over the past ten years the average salary for instructional staff in the State increased 34.5 percent, compared to the national average of 30.8 percent.

### III. Analysis

There are many ways to examine how Rhode Island's system of education finance compares to the rest of the country. Not only are there numerous data sources, there are many different measures by which education revenues and expenditures can be ranked and evaluated. This section of the report examines Rhode Island's education expenditures and revenues in comparison to the national average, and to Massachusetts and Connecticut.

#### Expenditures

One of the most common measures used to compare education spending is per pupil. The primary benefit of using per pupil expenditures is that they account for the vast differences in population across the country. This measure is typically derived by dividing total expenditures by the number of students in a state (either in fall enrollment or in average daily attendance). For purposes of this analysis, fall enrollment numbers are used. Total expenditures are all expenditures for the operation of local public schools, including salaries for school personnel, fixed charges, student transportation, school books and materials, and energy costs. Capital outlay, such as school construction aid, and the interest on school debt are excluded.

In the 2006-07 school year per pupil expenditures in Rhode Island were \$11,503, ranking the State 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the country. Education spending per pupil in the State was 20.4 percent higher than the national average of \$9,557. The Ocean State ranked below its neighbors, however; Connecticut's per pupil spending was \$13,005 (6<sup>th</sup> highest) and Massachusetts spent \$13,294 per pupil (5<sup>th</sup> highest) in 2006-07.

Since 1997 per pupil education expenditures have increased by 56.3 percent in the Ocean State, which was lower than the national average of 60.6 percent. During this time period the State had slower growth than Massachusetts, which grew 79.6 percent, and slightly higher growth than Connecticut, where per pupil education expenditures increased 55.0 percent.

**Table 1**  
**Estimated Current Expenditures Per Pupil (Fall Enrollment)**

	1996-1997			2006-2007			Change 1997-2007	
	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	Percent
U.S. Average*	\$5,949	-	-	\$9,557	-	-	\$3,608	60.6%
Connecticut	\$8,393	141.1%	4	\$13,005	136.1%	6	\$4,612	55.0%
Massachusetts	7,402	124.4%	6	13,294	139.1%	5	5,892	79.6%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>123.7%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11,503</b>	<b>120.4%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>56.3%</b>

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations



Another way to compare education expenditures is by examining State and local education spending per \$1,000 of personal income. This provides a measure of the relative affordability of education in each state, using personal income as a benchmark. Under this measure the Ocean State ranks 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the country, with elementary and secondary education expenditures of \$46.92 per \$1,000 of personal income.

In contrast to per pupil expenditures, Rhode Island has relatively higher spending than both its neighboring states on a per \$1,000 of personal income basis. The Ocean State spent 10.1 percent above the national average of \$42.61 in 2006-07. In contrast, Massachusetts spent 1.4 percent above the national average and Connecticut spent 1.6 percent below the national average.

Although Rhode Island continues to spend more of its personal income on elementary and secondary education than its neighbors, the rate of growth since 1996-97 has been slower in the Ocean State than in Massachusetts. Since 1997, education expenditures per \$1,000 of personal income in Rhode Island have grown 3.7 percent, 0.9 percent above the national average of 2.8 percent. By contrast, education expenditures as a percent of personal income increased by 12.5 percent in Massachusetts. Education expenditures per \$1,000 of personal income in Connecticut have grown slower than the national average and of both comparison states, increasing by less than \$1 over the ten-year period.

**Table 2**  
**Current Education Expenditures per \$1,000 of Personal Income**

	1996-97			2006-07			1997-2007	
	Amount	% of U.S.	Rank	Amount	% of U.S.	Rank	Amount	Percent
U.S. Average*	\$41.43	-	-	\$42.61	-	-	\$1.18	2.8%
Connecticut	\$40.98	98.9%	31	\$41.92	98.4%	30	\$0.94	2.3%
Massachusetts	38.41	92.7%	38	43.22	101.4%	25	4.81	12.5%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>45.25</b>	<b>109.2%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46.92</b>	<b>110.1%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

\* Includes Washington D.C.

Source: National Education Association, "Rankings and Estimates of the States", various years; Bureau of Economic Analysis; RIPEC calculations

### Revenues

Another side of education finance is the source and amount of revenues used to support education. The source of education revenue has become a contentious, and often litigious, issue throughout the country. Further, as state and local budgets contract, the source of education funding will move to the forefront of the education debate.

In Rhode Island, education is predominantly financed through the local property tax, as is the case throughout most of the New England region. New England historically has placed a

greater reliance on the property tax to finance education in comparison to the rest of the country. However, the Ocean State is unique in the region in that its reliance on local revenues as a percentage of total education revenues has increased over the past ten years. While Rhode Island ranked 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the country for local revenue as a percent of total revenues in school year 1996-97, the State now ranks second highest in the country. Only Illinois has a higher reliance on the local revenues as a means of financing education.

In 2006-07, 60.6 percent of all education revenues in the Ocean State were locally generated compared to 54.4 percent in 1996-97. Both Massachusetts and Connecticut saw the local share of education revenues decline during this time period, from 55.1 percent to 47.2 percent in Massachusetts and from 56.6 percent to 55.0 percent in Connecticut. Over the past ten years Massachusetts has declined in the rankings, from 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the country in 1996-97 to 19<sup>th</sup> highest. While Connecticut saw the actual percentage of local education revenues decline, the state rose in the rankings from 9<sup>th</sup> highest to 7<sup>th</sup> highest.

**Table 3**  
**Source of Total Public School Revenue**

	1996-97			2006-07		
	Local	State	Federal	Local	State	Federal
U.S. Average*	44.6%	48.8%	6.6%	43.5%	47.6%	8.9%
Connecticut	56.6%	39.2%	4.2%	55.0%	38.6%	6.4%
Massachusetts	55.1%	40.1%	4.8%	47.2%	47.7%	5.1%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>39.7%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

At the same time, both Federal and State funds as a percent of total education revenues have declined in the Ocean State. Rhode Island now ranks 44<sup>th</sup> highest for State revenue as a percent of total revenues, and 50<sup>th</sup> highest for federal revenue as a percent of the total. The State share in Rhode Island of 36.2 percent is 11.4 percent lower than the national average. The Federal contribution as a share of total revenues is lower than the national average.

Of the three comparison states, only Massachusetts ranked at or above the national average for the percent of education revenues provided by the state in school year 2006-07, while all three were below the national average for Federal funding. In 1996-97 all three states were similar with regard to the portion of education revenues that were financed by the state; Rhode Island now ranks the lowest of all three State funds.

Salaries

Education finances can also be compared on the basis of the amount of money spent on specific categories, which provide an idea of how school resources are used throughout the country. This section examines teacher and instructional staff salaries, the only categorical costs the NEA includes in their report.

In school year 2006-07, Rhode Island had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest average teacher salary in the country. The average Ocean State teacher salary was \$55,956, which was 10.1 percent above the national average of \$50,816. Although the State spent above the national average, Rhode Island's expenditures on teacher salaries were lower than its two neighboring states. Connecticut had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest average salaries in the country (\$60,822) and Massachusetts had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest (\$58,624).

	1996-97			2006-07			Change 1997-07	
	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	Percent
U.S. Average*	\$38,443	-	-	\$50,816	-	-	\$12,373	32.2%
Connecticut	\$50,426	131.2%	2	\$60,822	119.7%	2	\$10,396	20.6%
Massachusetts	42,650	110.9%	9	58,624	115.4%	4	15,974	37.5%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>43,019</b>	<b>111.9%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55,956</b>	<b>110.1%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12,937</b>	<b>30.1%</b>

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

Since 1996-97, Rhode Island's average teacher salary growth of 30.1 percent was similar to the national average, which increased 32.2 percent over the ten-year period. It was lower than the growth in Massachusetts' average teacher salary, which increased by 37.6 percent, to \$58,642 in 2006-07. Connecticut, which ranked second highest in the country in both years, had a slower rate of growth of just 20.6 percent.

Expenditures for instructional staff, which includes teachers as well as consultants, guidance personnel, librarians, principals, and other instructional staff, grew at a faster rate in Rhode Island than in the comparison states and the national average. Between the 1996-97 and 2006-07 school years, the average salary for instructional staff in the State increased 34.5 percent to \$59,435. Rhode Island increased in the national rankings from 9<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> highest during this time. By 2006-07, Rhode Island's average instructional staff salary was 12.5 percent above the national average.

**Table 5**  
**Estimated Average Instructional Staff Salary**

	1996-97			2006-07			Change 1997-07	
	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	% of US	Rank	Amount	Percent
U.S. Average*	\$40,392	-	-	\$52,843	-	-	\$12,451	30.8%
Connecticut	\$52,067	128.9%	3	\$63,769	120.7%	1	\$11,702	22.5%
Massachusetts	54,244	134.3%	1	59,556	112.7%	7	5,312	9.8%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>44,188</b>	<b>109.4%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59,435</b>	<b>112.5%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15,247</b>	<b>34.5%</b>

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

Connecticut has the highest average instruction staff salary in the country, up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 1996-97. At the same time, Massachusetts has decreased in the rankings, moving from the highest in the country to the 7<sup>th</sup> highest. The average salary for instructional staff in Connecticut was \$63,769 (20.7 percent above the national average). The average salary in Massachusetts was \$59,556 (12.7 percent above the national average).

#### IV. Education Finance Tables

**Table 6**  
**Estimated Current Expenditures Per Student in Fall Enrollment**  
**2006-07 and 1996-97 (Measured in Current Dollars)**

State	2006-07		1996-97		Change 1997-2007		
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank	Amount	Change	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$9,557	-	\$5,949	-	\$3,608	60.6%	-
New Jersey	\$14,675	1	\$9,566	1	\$5,109	53.4%	38
New York	14,206	2	8,619	3	5,587	64.8%	21
Vermont	13,385	3	6,564	11	6,821	103.9%	2
Wyoming	13,328	4	6,074	17	7,254	119.4%	1
Massachusetts	13,294	5	7,402	6	5,892	79.6%	11
Connecticut	13,005	6	8,393	4	4,612	55.0%	34
Delaware	12,565	7	7,403	5	5,162	69.7%	16
Maine	12,063	8	6,525	13	5,538	84.9%	5
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>11,503</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>56.3%</b>	<b>32</b>
Pennsylvania	11,304	10	6,967	9	4,337	62.3%	24
New Hampshire	10,792	11	5,850	21	4,942	84.5%	7
Ohio	10,563	12	5,629	24	4,934	87.7%	3
Wisconsin	10,432	13	6,767	10	3,665	54.2%	36
Hawaii	10,431	14	5,593	25	4,838	86.5%	4
Illinois	10,404	15	5,811	22	4,593	79.0%	12
Alaska	10,392	16	8,900	2	1,492	16.8%	50
Maryland	10,298	17	6,547	12	3,751	57.3%	30
Michigan	10,209	18	7,007	8	3,202	45.7%	47
Minnesota	10,143	19	6,091	16	4,052	66.5%	19
West Virginia	10,071	20	6,308	14	3,763	59.7%	25
Virginia	9,785	21	5,939	19	3,846	64.8%	22
Indiana	9,330	22	6,161	15	3,169	51.4%	41
South Carolina	9,274	23	5,133	36	4,141	80.7%	10
New Mexico	9,036	24	4,911	40	4,125	84.0%	8
Oregon	8,989	25	5,920	20	3,069	51.8%	40
Arkansas	8,905	26	4,897	41	4,008	81.8%	9
Colorado	8,895	27	5,313	30	3,582	67.4%	18
California	8,834	28	5,191	35	3,643	70.2%	15
Kansas	8,804	29	5,516	26	3,288	59.6%	26
Georgia	8,799	30	5,982	18	2,817	47.1%	45
Washington	8,730	31	5,675	23	3,055	53.8%	37
Montana	8,682	32	5,481	27	3,201	58.4%	28
Louisiana	8,657	33	4,685	46	3,972	84.8%	6
Florida	8,493	34	5,371	29	3,122	58.1%	29
Kentucky	8,459	35	5,103	37	3,356	65.8%	20
Nebraska	8,309	36	5,245	33	3,064	58.4%	27
South Dakota	8,237	37	4,721	45	3,516	74.5%	13
North Dakota	8,228	38	4,788	44	3,440	71.8%	14
Missouri	8,170	39	4,983	39	3,187	64.0%	23
Iowa	8,141	40	5,233	34	2,908	55.6%	33
Texas	8,048	41	5,444	28	2,604	47.8%	43
North Carolina	8,000	42	5,259	31	2,741	52.1%	39
Alabama	7,672	43	5,255	32	2,417	46.0%	46
Tennessee	7,255	44	4,888	42	2,367	48.4%	42
Idaho	7,176	45	4,563	47	2,613	57.3%	31
Oklahoma	7,084	46	4,815	43	2,269	47.1%	44
Nevada	6,963	47	5,008	38	1,955	39.0%	48
Mississippi	6,866	48	4,085	49	2,781	68.1%	17
Arizona	5,696	49	4,456	48	1,240	27.8%	49
Utah	5,551	50	3,596	50	1,955	54.4%	35

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 9th in 2005-06

**Table 7**  
**Estimated Current Expenditures**  
**Per \$1,000 of Personal Income**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
US Average	\$42.61	-	\$41.43	-
Vermont	57.36	1	53.53	4
Maine	55.97	2	52.69	6
West Virginia	55.51	3	56.93	2
Wyoming	53.97	4	56.19	3
Alaska	53.35	5	73.63	1
Michigan	51.91	6	49.27	7
Ohio	51.68	7	39.60	35
New Mexico	51.10	8	48.83	9
Arkansas	50.66	9	45.80	16
New Jersey	50.41	10	46.95	11
South Carolina	49.86	11	43.42	20
Georgia	47.80	12	45.92	13
Wisconsin	47.74	13	48.87	8
Indiana	47.48	14	45.84	15
New York	47.03	15	45.87	14
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>46.92</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45.25</b>	<b>18</b>
Delaware	46.17	17	42.93	22
Pennsylvania	45.11	18	42.25	27
Illinois	44.85	19	35.82	46
Texas	44.70	20	48.73	10
Kentucky	43.75	21	42.44	25
Idaho	43.71	22	45.94	12
Louisiana	43.50	23	42.07	28
Mississippi	43.32	24	42.32	26
Massachusetts	43.22	25	38.41	38
Kansas	43.18	26	43.07	21
Montana	42.98	27	53.45	5
New Hampshire	42.61	28	37.37	41
Minnesota	41.97	29	42.85	23
Connecticut	41.92	30	40.98	31
Oregon	41.11	31	41.91	29
Alabama	40.00	32	44.78	19
Iowa	39.95	33	40.57	32
Hawaii	39.82	34	35.00	48
Virginia	39.79	35	38.52	37
Nebraska	39.24	36	38.74	36
North Carolina	39.19	37	37.70	40
South Dakota	39.10	38	39.65	34
Oklahoma	39.04	39	45.34	17
California	38.69	40	35.95	44
Missouri	38.31	41	35.94	45
Colorado	37.54	42	35.70	47
North Dakota	37.45	43	41.38	30
Washington	36.87	44	39.69	33
Maryland	35.66	45	38.27	39
Utah	35.52	46	42.56	24
Tennessee	35.35	47	36.89	43
Florida	34.11	48	34.22	49
Nevada	30.50	49	32.51	50
Arizona	29.89	50	37.23	42

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007";  
"Rankings of the States 1998", Bureau of Economic Analysis; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

**Table 8**  
**Estimated Local Government Revenue**  
**As a Percentage of Total Public School Revenue, 2006-07 and 1996-97**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	43.5%	-	44.6%	-
Illinois	63.9	1	67.1	2
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>12</b>
Nevada	60.2	3	62.1	4
New Jersey	60.1	4	57.4	7
Missouri	58.1	5	54.4	12
Pennsylvania	57.4	6	53.0	15
Connecticut	55.0	7	56.6	9
Nebraska	54.0	8	57.7	6
Maryland	53.8	9	54.4	12
Virginia	53.5	10	57.0	8
Florida	53.4	11	43.8	24
New Hampshire	52.2	12	89.6	1
North Dakota	51.4	13	46.1	20
Texas	50.9	14	48.3	18
Maine	50.1	15	47.5	19
Colorado	49.8	16	50.6	17
South Dakota	48.5	17	58.2	5
Georgia	47.9	18	40.8	30
Massachusetts	47.2	19	55.1	10
New York	47.1	20	42.6	27
Iowa	47.1	20	55.1	10
Ohio	46.6	22	51.4	16
South Carolina	46.1	23	39.3	32
Tennessee	43.3	24	45.4	21
Indiana	43.3	24	40.8	30
Wyoming	42.9	26	45.1	22
Oregon	41.3	27	41.2	29
Wisconsin	41.0	28	42.6	27
Arizona	40.2	29	44.1	23
Montana	40.0	30	43.2	26
Louisiana	38.0	31	37.4	33
Oklahoma	36.2	32	29.4	40
Kansas	35.5	33	36.9	34
Utah	35.5	33	31.1	37
Idaho	33.4	35	29.7	39
Arkansas	32.5	36	31.5	35
Mississippi	30.8	37	30.9	38
Kentucky	30.4	38	27.2	43
Michigan	29.6	39	27.9	42
Alabama	28.3	40	24.9	47
Washington	28.0	41	25.5	46
West Virginia	27.8	42	31.5	35
California	27.8	42	28.6	41
Delaware	26.7	44	26.4	45
North Carolina	25.0	45	27.0	44
Alaska	23.9	46	23.9	49
Minnesota	19.2	47	43.5	25
New Mexico	14.0	48	24.7	48
Vermont	5.6	49	66.2	3
Hawaii	2.0	50	2.4	50

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations  
\*US average includes District of Columbia  
Rhode Island ranked 3rd in 2005-06



**Table 9**  
**Estimated State Government Revenue as a Percentage of Total Public**  
**School Revenue, 2006-07 and 1996-97**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	47.6%	-	48.8%	-
Hawaii	88.8	1	89.5	1
Vermont	86.8	2	29.1	48
Minnesota	73.3	3	52.1	23
New Mexico	71.0	4	65.6	4
Delaware	64.0	5	65.9	3
North Carolina	63.9	6	65.6	4
Alaska	63.5	7	63.6	10
Washington	62.7	8	68.6	2
California	62.1	9	60.2	14
Alabama	61.8	10	64.8	7
Michigan	61.3	11	65.5	6
West Virginia	59.7	12	62.8	11
Kentucky	57.6	13	57.7	16
Kansas	57.6	13	64.0	8
Arkansas	56.2	15	60.1	15
Idaho	55.4	16	63.8	9
Mississippi	53.9	17	55.0	17
Utah	53.5	18	62.6	12
Arizona	51.8	19	48.7	28
Wisconsin	51.5	20	53.1	19
Oklahoma	49.9	21	62.3	13
Indiana	49.7	22	50.5	26
Wyoming	49.6	23	52.6	20
Oregon	49.6	23	48.3	29
Massachusetts	47.7	25	40.1	37
Montana	47.7	25	47.4	30
Ohio	46.9	27	42.3	34
Iowa	46.3	28	53.6	18
New York	45.7	29	39.4	41
Tennessee	44.7	30	50.8	24
Louisiana	43.2	31	50.8	24
South Carolina	43.1	32	52.5	22
Colorado	42.6	33	44.2	32
Georgia	42.3	34	52.6	20
New Hampshire	41.4	35	7.1	50
Maine	39.9	36	46.0	31
Virginia	39.1	37	37.3	45
Maryland	39.0	38	40.0	38
Texas	38.8	39	44.0	33
Connecticut	38.6	40	39.2	42
Florida	37.4	41	48.8	27
Nebraska	37.2	42	38.0	44
New Jersey	36.6	43	39.2	42
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>39</b>
Pennsylvania	34.6	45	41.4	36
North Dakota	33.5	46	42.1	35
South Dakota	32.9	47	32.0	47
Missouri	32.5	48	39.6	40
Nevada	32.4	49	33.6	46
Illinois	27.5	50	27.0	49

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007";

"Rankings of the States 1998", RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

RI ranked 42nd in 2006-06

**Table 10**  
**Estimated Federal Government Revenue as a Percentage of**  
**Total Public School Revenue, 2006-07 and 1996-97**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average	8.9%	-	6.6%	-
Louisiana	18.8	1	11.8	3
South Dakota	18.7	2	9.8	6
Mississippi	15.3	3	14.1	1
North Dakota	15.0	4	9.7	7
New Mexico	15.0	4	11.7	4
Oklahoma	13.9	6	8.3	13
West Virginia	12.5	7	12.6	2
Alaska	12.5	7	8.6	10
Montana	12.3	9	9.4	8
Kentucky	12.1	10	8.8	9
Tennessee	12.0	11	8.4	11
Arkansas	11.2	12	8.4	11
Idaho	11.2	12	6.5	24
North Carolina	11.1	14	7.4	19
Utah	11.0	15	6.3	27
South Carolina	10.8	16	8.2	15
Texas	10.2	17	7.7	17
California	10.1	18	8.3	13
Maine	10.0	19	6.5	24
Alabama	9.9	20	10.2	5
Georgia	9.7	21	6.6	22
Missouri	9.4	22	5.9	31
Delaware	9.3	23	7.7	17
Florida	9.3	23	7.4	19
Washington	9.3	23	6.0	30
Michigan	9.2	26	8.1	16
Hawaii	9.2	26	6.6	22
Oregon	9.0	28	6.2	29
Nebraska	8.7	29	4.3	43
Illinois	8.6	30	5.9	31
Arizona	8.0	31	7.2	21
Pennsylvania	7.9	32	5.6	35
Vermont	7.7	33	4.7	41
Wyoming	7.6	34	6.5	24
Virginia	7.5	35	5.2	39
Wisconsin	7.5	35	4.3	43
Minnesota	7.5	35	5.7	34
Colorado	7.5	35	4.3	43
Nevada	7.4	39	4.4	42
Maryland	7.3	40	5.6	35
New York	7.3	40	5.4	38
Indiana	7.0	42	4.2	46
Kansas	6.9	43	5.5	37
Iowa	6.6	44	3.8	48
Connecticut	6.4	45	4.2	46
New Hampshire	6.4	45	3.3	50
Ohio	6.4	45	6.3	27
Massachusetts	5.1	48	4.8	40
New Jersey	3.3	49	3.4	49
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>31</b>

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007";  
"Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 49th in 2005-06

**Table 11**  
**Estimated Average Teacher Salaries**  
**2006-07 and 1996-97 (Measured in Current Dollars)**

State	2006-07 Rank		1996-97 Rank		Change 1997-07		
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank	Amount	Change	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$50,816	-	\$38,443	-	\$12,373	32.2%	-
California	\$63,640	1	\$42,992	8	\$20,648	48.0%	3
Connecticut	60,822	2	50,426	2	10,396	20.6%	46
New Jersey	59,920	3	49,786	3	10,134	20.4%	47
Massachusetts	58,624	4	42,650	9	15,974	37.5%	16
New York	58,537	5	48,000	4	10,537	22.0%	43
Illinois	58,246	6	42,125	10	16,121	38.3%	14
Maryland	56,927	7	41,148	12	15,779	38.3%	13
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>55,956</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>43,019</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12,937</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>29</b>
Pennsylvania	54,970	9	47,148	6	7,822	16.6%	48
Michigan	54,895	10	47,181	5	7,714	16.3%	49
Delaware	54,680	11	41,436	11	13,244	32.0%	26
Alaska	54,658	12	50,647	1	4,011	7.9%	50
Ohio	51,937	13	38,677	16	13,260	34.3%	20
Hawaii	51,922	14	35,842	23	16,080	44.9%	6
Oregon	50,911	15	40,960	13	9,951	24.3%	39
Wyoming	50,692	16	31,715	41	18,977	59.8%	1
Georgia	49,905	17	35,596	24	14,309	40.2%	9
Minnesota	49,634	18	38,115	17	11,519	30.2%	28
Vermont	48,370	19	36,053	21	12,317	34.2%	21
Wisconsin	47,901	20	39,057	14	8,844	22.6%	42
Washington	47,882	21	37,805	18	10,077	26.7%	35
Indiana	47,831	22	38,845	15	8,986	23.1%	41
New Hampshire	46,527	23	36,029	22	10,498	29.1%	31
North Carolina	46,410	24	31,167	42	15,243	48.9%	2
Arizona	45,941	25	33,685	29	12,256	36.4%	17
Colorado	45,833	26	36,271	20	9,562	26.4%	36
Nevada	45,342	27	37,340	19	8,002	21.4%	45
Florida	45,308	28	33,889	28	11,419	33.7%	22
Texas	44,897	29	32,426	37	12,471	38.5%	12
Virginia	44,727	30	35,536	25	9,191	25.9%	38
Arkansas	44,245	31	30,578	43	13,667	44.7%	7
South Carolina	44,133	32	32,830	35	11,303	34.4%	19
Tennessee	43,816	33	34,222	26	9,594	28.0%	33
Kentucky	43,646	34	33,949	27	9,697	28.6%	32
Alabama	43,389	35	32,549	36	10,840	33.3%	23
Kansas	43,334	36	32,865	34	10,469	31.9%	27
Iowa	43,130	37	33,272	31	9,858	29.6%	30
Louisiana	42,816	38	29,025	47	13,791	47.5%	4
Idaho	42,798	39	31,820	39	10,978	34.5%	18
New Mexico	42,780	40	30,131	45	12,649	42.0%	8
Oklahoma	42,379	41	30,369	44	12,010	39.5%	11
Nebraska	42,044	42	31,768	40	10,276	32.3%	24
Missouri	41,839	43	33,155	33	8,684	26.2%	37
Maine	41,596	44	33,676	30	7,920	23.5%	40
Montana	41,225	45	29,958	46	11,267	37.6%	15
Utah	40,566	46	31,867	38	8,699	27.3%	34
West Virginia	40,531	47	33,250	32	7,281	21.9%	44
Mississippi	40,182	48	27,720	48	12,462	45.0%	5
North Dakota	38,822	49	27,711	49	11,111	40.1%	10
South Dakota	35,378	50	26,764	50	8,614	32.2%	25

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007"; "Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 8th in 2005-06

**Table 12**  
**Estimated Average Salaries of Public School Teachers**  
**Percentage of National Average 2006-07 and 1996-97**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$50,816	-	\$38,443	-
California	125.2%	1	111.8%	8
Connecticut	119.7	2	113.2	2
New Jersey	117.9	3	129.5	3
Massachusetts	115.4	4	110.9	9
New York	115.2	5	124.9	4
Illinois	114.6	6	109.6	10
Maryland	112.0	7	107.4	12
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>7</b>
Pennsylvania	108.2	9	122.6	6
Michigan	108.0	10	122.7	5
Delaware	107.6	11	107.8	11
Alaska	107.6	12	131.8	1
Ohio	102.2	13	100.6	16
Hawaii	102.2	14	93.2	23
Oregon	100.2	15	106.6	13
Wyoming	99.8	16	82.5	41
Georgia	98.2	17	92.6	24
Minnesota	97.7	18	99.2	17
Vermont	95.2	19	93.8	21
Wisconsin	94.3	20	101.6	14
Washington	94.2	21	98.3	18
Indiana	94.1	22	101.1	15
New Hampshire	91.6	23	93.7	22
North Carolina	91.3	24	81.1	42
Arizona	90.4	25	87.6	29
Colorado	90.2	26	94.4	20
Nevada	89.2	27	97.1	19
Florida	89.2	28	88.2	28
Texas	88.4	29	84.4	37
Virginia	88.0	30	92.4	25
Arkansas	87.1	31	79.5	43
South Carolina	86.9	32	85.4	35
Tennessee	86.2	33	89.0	26
Kentucky	85.9	34	88.3	27
Alabama	85.4	35	84.7	36
Kansas	85.3	36	85.5	34
Iowa	84.9	37	86.6	31
Louisiana	84.3	38	75.5	47
Idaho	84.2	39	82.8	39
New Mexico	84.2	40	78.4	45
Oklahoma	83.4	41	79.0	44
Nebraska	82.7	42	82.6	40
Missouri	82.3	43	86.2	33
Maine	81.9	44	87.6	30
Montana	81.1	45	77.9	46
Utah	79.8	46	82.9	38
West Virginia	79.8	47	86.5	32
Mississippi	79.1	48	72.1	48
North Dakota	76.4	49	72.1	49
South Dakota	69.6	50	69.6	50

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007";

"Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island Ranked 8th in 2005-06

**Table 13**  
**Estimated Average Salaries**  
**of Instructional Staff in Public Schools 2006-07 and 1996-97**

State	2006-07		1996-97	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$52,843	-	\$40,392	-
Connecticut	63,769	1	52,067	3
California	63,640	2	45,349	8
New Jersey	63,125	3	52,411	2
Alaska	62,448	4	52,033	4
Michigan	60,198	5	47,181	7
New York	59,839	6	48,600	5
Massachusetts	59,556	7	54,244	1
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>59,435</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44,188</b>	<b>9</b>
Illinois	58,903	9	43,686	11
Arizona	58,283	10	44,157	10
Maryland	57,882	11	42,988	14
Delaware	57,375	12	43,085	13
Pennsylvania	56,638	13	48,178	6
Hawaii	53,990	14	36,943	25
Ohio	53,181	15	39,938	17
Wyoming	52,471	16	32,620	41
Georgia	52,403	17	37,344	24
Wisconsin	52,116	18	41,848	16
Minnesota	51,981	19	39,258	20
Oregon	51,122	20	42,420	15
Indiana	50,569	21	39,917	18
Washington	50,517	22	39,600	19
Vermont	49,705	23	36,053	27
New Hampshire	48,315	24	43,455	12
Colorado	47,987	25	37,473	23
Texas	47,584	26	34,362	36
Nevada	47,533	27	39,179	21
South Carolina	47,350	28	34,421	35
Kentucky	47,192	29	35,560	28
Virginia	46,823	30	36,426	26
Florida	46,669	31	34,980	31
North Carolina	46,410	32	32,383	42
Maine	46,216	33	34,796	32
Alabama	45,528	34	33,744	38
Arkansas	45,509	35	31,852	44
Tennessee	45,503	36	35,555	29
Nebraska	45,013	37	35,045	30
Louisiana	44,768	38	30,499	47
Iowa	44,738	39	34,477	34
New Mexico	44,472	40	30,914	46
Kansas	44,348	41	38,379	22
Utah	44,308	42	33,031	40
Oklahoma	44,025	43	31,894	43
Missouri	43,796	44	34,789	33
Idaho	42,798	45	33,277	39
West Virginia	42,249	46	34,345	37
Mississippi	41,754	47	28,648	48
Montana	40,943	48	31,836	45
North Dakota	40,171	49	27,905	49
South Dakota	36,743	50	27,767	50

Source: National Education Association, "Ranking and Estimates - December 2007";

"Rankings of the States 1998"; RIPEC Calculations

\*US average includes District of Columbia

Rhode Island ranked 8th in 2005-06

**Table 14**  
**Personal Income Per Capita**  
**2006-07 and 1996-97 (Measured in Current Dollars)**

State	2006-07		1996-97		Change 1997-07		
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank	Amount	Change	Rank
U.S. Average*	\$36,629	-	\$24,554	-	\$12,075	49.2%	-
Connecticut	\$50,787	1	\$33,116	1	\$17,671	53.4%	12
New Jersey	46,328	2	31,003	2	15,325	49.4%	24
Massachusetts	46,255	3	29,381	3	16,874	57.4%	5
New York	43,962	4	29,121	4	14,841	51.0%	17
Maryland	43,774	5	27,691	5	16,083	58.1%	4
Wyoming	40,569	6	22,243	33	18,326	82.4%	1
New Hampshire	39,655	7	26,745	8	12,910	48.3%	31
Colorado	39,587	8	26,289	9	13,298	50.6%	18
Virginia	39,564	9	25,355	15	14,209	56.0%	7
California	39,358	10	25,501	13	13,857	54.3%	11
Nevada	39,015	11	27,226	6	11,789	43.3%	43
Delaware	38,984	12	26,219	10	12,765	48.7%	27
Minnesota	38,751	13	26,076	11	12,675	48.6%	28
Alaska	38,622	14	25,961	12	12,661	48.8%	26
Illinois	38,297	15	26,778	7	11,518	43.0%	44
Washington	38,067	16	25,345	16	12,722	50.2%	20
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>37,261</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24,912</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12,349</b>	<b>49.6%</b>	<b>23</b>
Hawaii	36,826	18	25,432	14	11,394	44.8%	40
Pennsylvania	36,689	19	24,713	18	11,976	48.5%	30
Florida	36,665	20	24,354	20	12,311	50.5%	19
Texas	35,058	21	22,509	31	12,549	55.8%	8
Kansas	34,744	22	22,988	26	11,756	51.1%	16
Vermont	34,623	23	22,239	34	12,384	55.7%	9
Wisconsin	34,476	24	23,526	23	10,950	46.5%	34
Nebraska	34,383	25	23,902	21	10,481	43.9%	41
Michigan	33,784	26	24,355	19	9,430	38.7%	49
Oregon	33,252	27	23,779	22	9,474	39.8%	48
Ohio	33,217	28	23,438	25	9,779	41.7%	46
North Dakota	33,034	29	21,314	38	11,720	55.0%	10
Iowa	33,017	30	22,771	29	10,246	45.0%	39
Missouri	32,793	31	22,815	28	9,978	43.7%	42
South Dakota	32,405	32	21,826	35	10,579	48.5%	29
Oklahoma	32,398	33	20,046	44	12,352	61.6%	2
North Carolina	32,338	34	22,910	27	9,429	41.2%	47
Tennessee	32,305	35	22,278	32	10,028	45.0%	38
Indiana	32,226	36	22,640	30	9,586	42.3%	45
Georgia	32,025	37	23,473	24	8,552	36.4%	50
Arizona	31,949	38	21,550	36	10,400	48.3%	32
Maine	31,931	39	21,316	37	10,615	49.8%	22
Louisiana	31,369	40	20,060	42	11,309	56.4%	6
Montana	30,886	41	19,255	48	11,631	60.4%	3
Alabama	30,841	42	20,271	41	10,570	52.1%	13
Idaho	29,948	43	20,510	39	9,438	46.0%	36
Utah	29,769	44	19,971	45	9,798	49.1%	25
New Mexico	29,725	45	19,544	46	10,181	52.1%	14
Kentucky	29,719	46	20,051	43	9,668	48.2%	33
South Carolina	29,688	47	20,365	40	9,323	45.8%	37
Arkansas	28,444	48	19,434	47	9,010	46.4%	35
West Virginia	28,067	49	18,484	49	9,583	51.8%	15
Mississippi	26,908	50	17,951	50	8,957	49.9%	21

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis State Personal Income; US Census Bureau Population Estimates; RIPEC Calculations  
\*US average includes District of Columbia

## V. Glossary of Terms

**Current Expenditures:** The expenditures for operating local public schools, excluding capital outlay and interest on school debt. These expenditures include such items as salaries for school personnel, fixed charges, student transportation, school books and materials, and energy costs.

**Fall Enrollment:** The count of pupils registered in the fall of the school year.

**Instructional Staff:** Public school staff that are directly involved with students and their education. This category includes classroom teachers, principals, supervisors, librarians, guidance and psychological personnel, and related instructional workers.

**Revenue:** Monies for public school purposes derived from three sources:

*Local:* Includes all funds for direct expenditures by local and intermediate districts for school services, for the operation of intermediate departments on education, for employer contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of public school employees, for the purchase of materials for distribution of local school districts, etc.

*State:* All funds for the operation of the state department of education, for state (employer) contributions to retirement systems and/or Social Security on behalf of school employees, for grants in aid to intermediate and local school districts for school purposes (including funds available from state bond issues for such grants and the costs of textbooks, buses, supplies, etc., purchased by the state for distribution to local school districts), for the payment of interest on state bonds issued to provide grants to local school districts, and all other state revenue for public school purposes.

*Federal:* Includes money distributed from the Federal treasury either directly to local school districts or through the state and county, including: grants for vocational education; aid to federally affected areas; school lunch and milk programs; educating American Indians in local public schools; and money derived from Federal forest reserves and Federal oil royalties.

**Public School Teacher:** A staff member assigned the professional activities of instructing pupils in self-contained classes or courses, or in classroom situations.

NOTE - THE ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE DERIVED PRIMARILY FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S (NEA) PUBLICATION, "RANKING OF THE STATES 2005 AND ESTIMATES OF SCHOOL STATISTICS 2006" AND "RANKINGS OF THE STATES 1997." NEA ATTEMPTS TO COLLECT DATA FROM STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, HOWEVER NOT ALL STATES RESPOND TO THE NEA. IN THESE INSTANCES, NEA HAS PROVIDED AN ESTIMATE. IN ADDITION, STATES THAT DO RESPOND TO THE NEA MAY NOT REPORT INFORMATION IN A CONSISTENT MANNER. CROSS STATE COMPARISONS SHOULD BE VIEWED CAUTIOUSLY.