

The Role of School Facilities in Advancing Educational Equity

The Second National Summit on Equitable Development, Social Justice and Smart Growth

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- Founded in 1994 to build the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities to improve education and communities
 - Research
 - Government Reform
 - Innovation
- Collaboration of the 21st Century School Fund to support:
 - Broad-based, comprehensive educational facility planning
 - Schools as centers of community
 - Responsible management of public school buildings
 - Adequate funding for maintenance and capital projects



Partners

- ❑ 21st Century School Fund, Washington, DC
- ❑ Education Law Center, Newark, NJ
- ❑ Neighborhood Capital Budget Group, Chicago, IL
- ❑ New Schools Better Neighborhoods, Los Angeles, CA
- ❑ New Visions for New Schools, New York, NY
- ❑ KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Cincinnati, OH
- ❑ National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC
- ❑ National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, Washington, DC
- ❑ Mark Schneider, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY

Findings of 1995 GAO Study on Public School Facilities

- Most schools (66%) were in overall adequate condition needing maintenance or corrective repair.
- An estimated 14 million children attended schools in buildings needing **extensive** repair or replacement.
 - ❑ Poor and minority children were far more likely to attend school where major building problems existed;
 - ❑ Students in central cities or districts with over 50% minority population were more likely to have insufficient technology and more unsatisfactory environmental conditions than other schools
- An estimated 25 million children attended schools in buildings with **at least one** unsatisfactory environmental condition.
- Estimated need for \$112 billion to bring existing public schools into good repair.

*"Modernizing Our Schools:
What Will It Cost?" NEA 2000*

- NEA research contained state-by-state data
- Study showed \$322 billion was needed for America's public schools facilities:
 - \$268B for infrastructure repair and new construction for enrollment growth
 - \$54B for educational technologies (including wiring and networking for Internet access).

**Research of Building Educational Success
Together (BEST)**

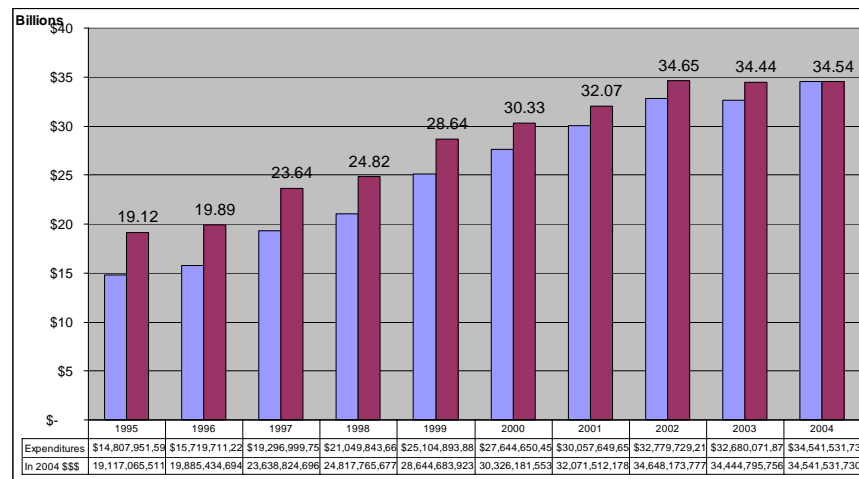
- How much has been spent on public school construction since 1995?
- How was this money spent?
 - How much for new construction to meet enrollment growth demands?
 - How much to address needs of obsolete or substandard building conditions in existing schools?
- Who benefited from the expenditures?
 - Which states?
 - Which school districts?
 - Which schools benefited by achievement and grade levels and size?
 - Which students benefited by race, income, region, school size?
 - Which neighborhoods benefited—by income levels, percent home ownership, level of education of mother?

K-12 School Construction

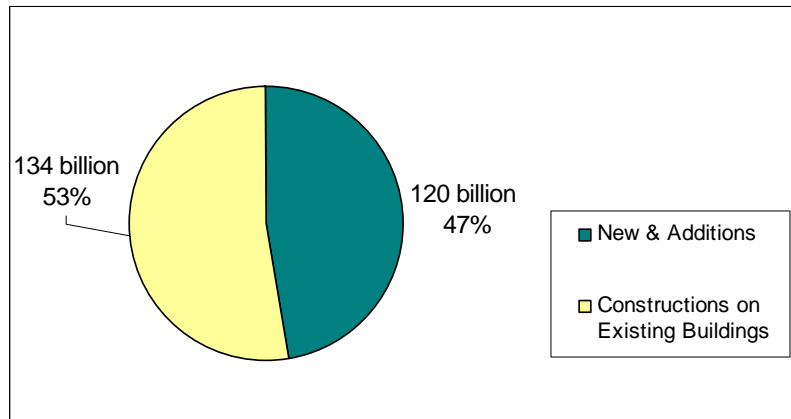
- Total **Construction Only** 1995-2004: \$253 billion.
- In 2004 dollars: \$293 billion.
- Excludes cost for land acquisition, design, engineering, and project management and administration.
- Total project cost estimate: \$352 billion.

K-12 Public School Construction

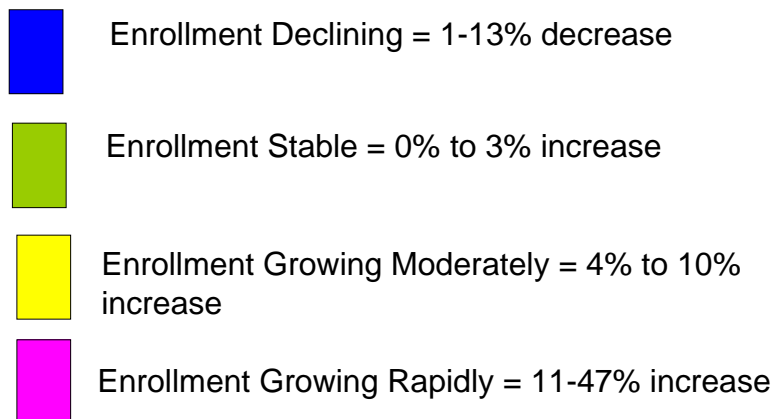
Contracts 1995-2004 (Source: McGraw Hill)



Comparison of Constructions on New and Existing Buildings from 1995 to 2004

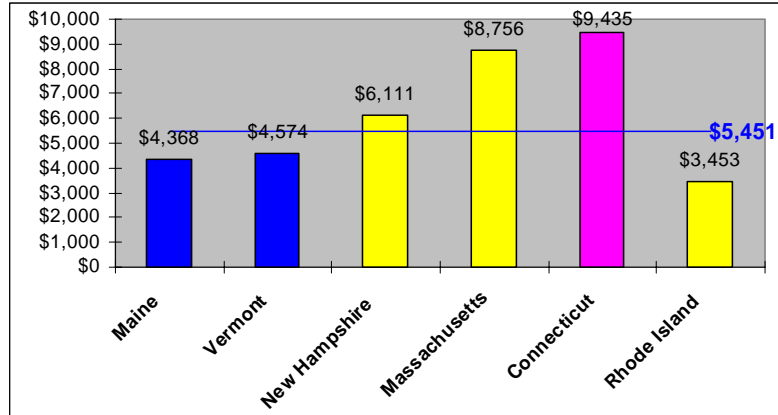


State Enrollment Change SY1994-2003



Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

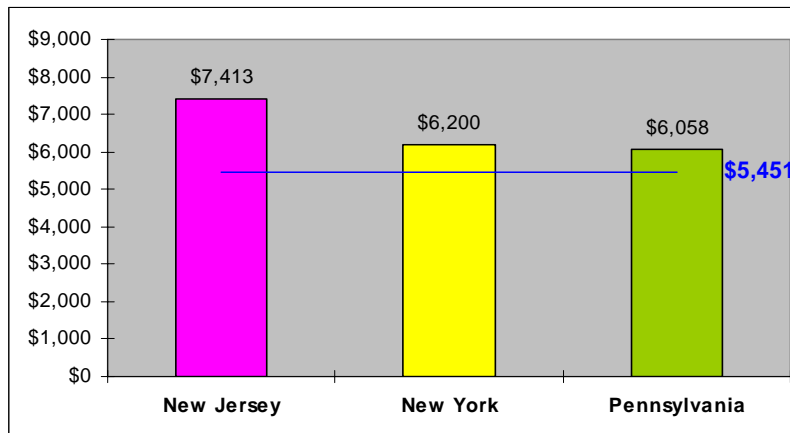
New England Division



- Enrollment Declining
- Enrollment Stable
- Enrollment Growing Moderately
- Enrollment Growing Rapidly

Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

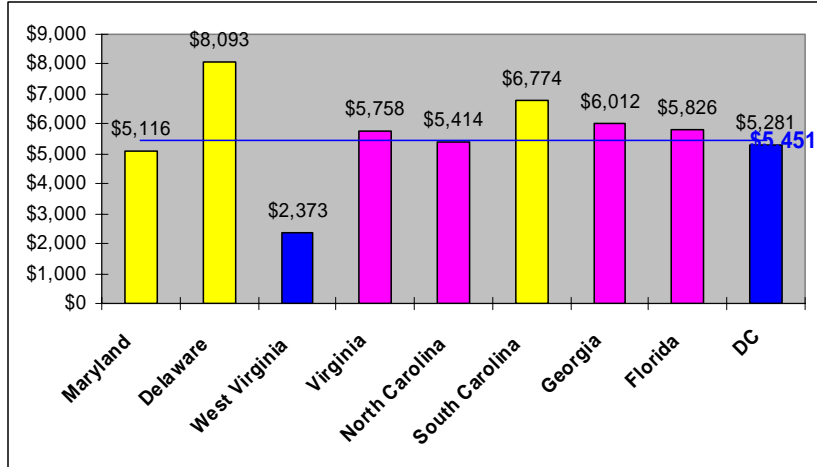
Middle Atlantic Division



- Enrollment Declining
- Enrollment Stable
- Enrollment Growing Moderately
- Enrollment Growing Rapidly

Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

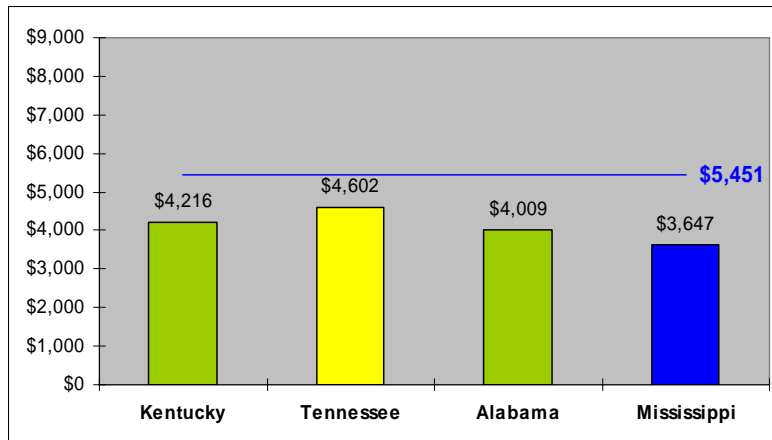
South Atlantic Division



- Enrollment Declining
- Enrollment Stable
- Enrollment Growing Moderately
- Enrollment Growing Rapidly

Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

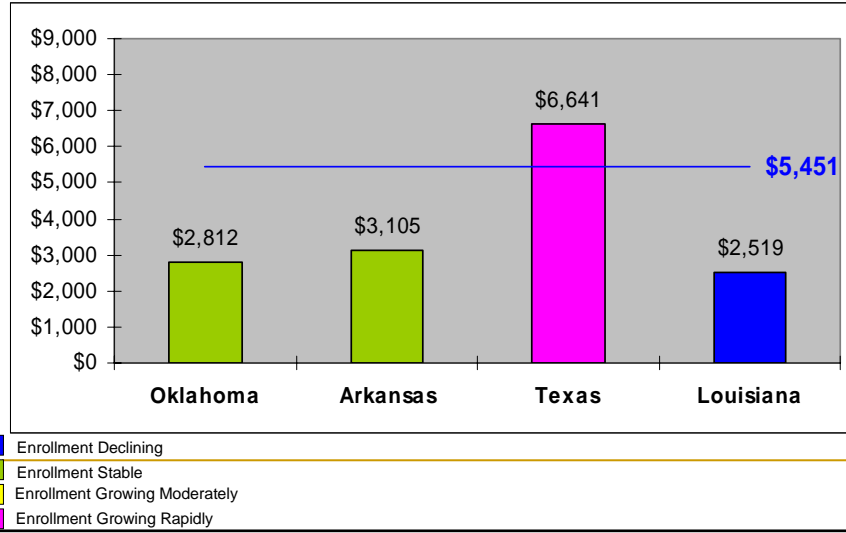
East South Central Division



- Enrollment Declining
- Enrollment Stable
- Enrollment Growing Moderately
- Enrollment Growing Rapidly

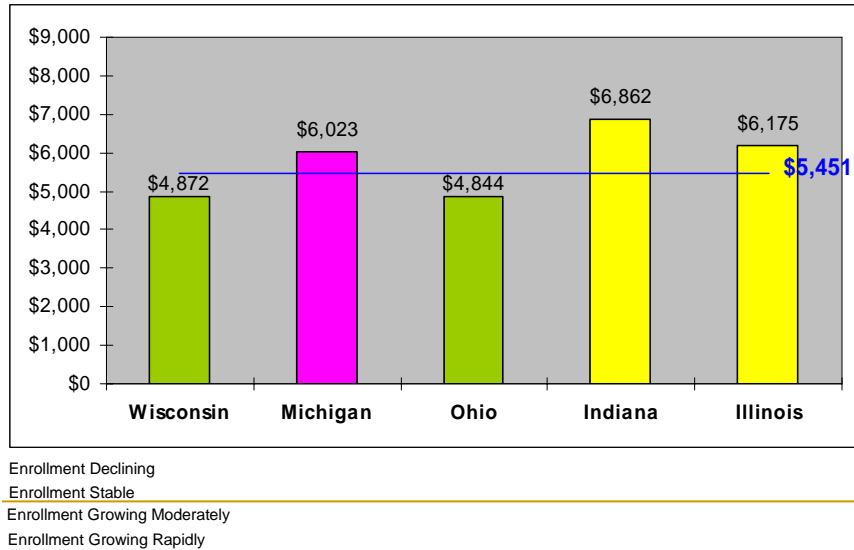
Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

West South Central Division



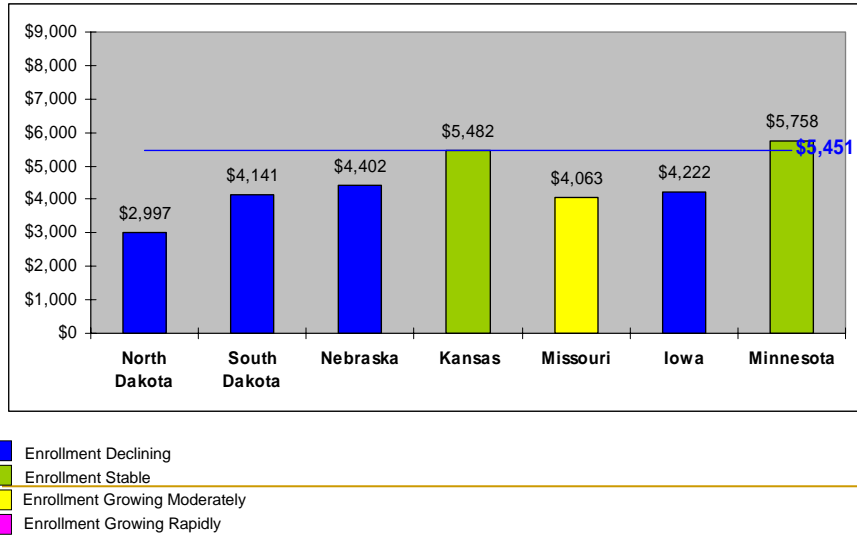
Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

East North Central Division



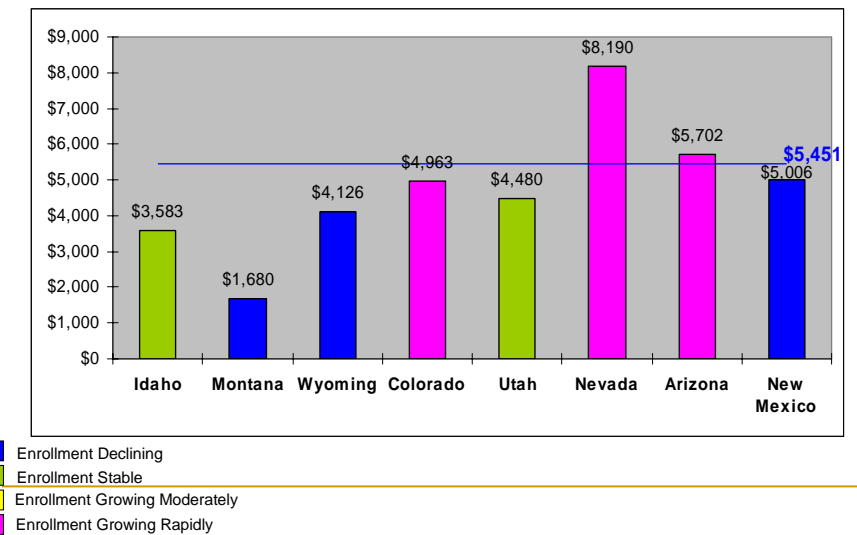
Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

West North Central Division



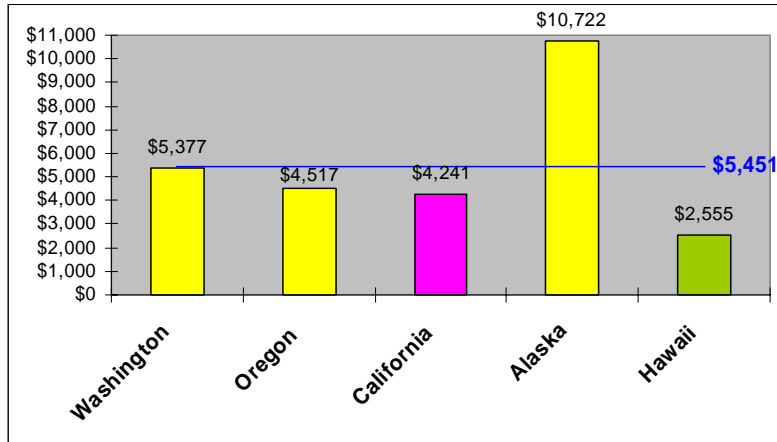
Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

Mountain Division



Expenditures per Student from 1995 to 2004

Pacific Division



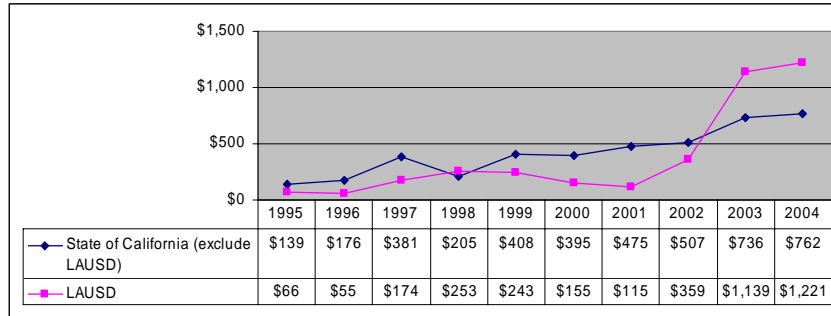
- Enrollment Declining
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Observations from State Comparisons

- Construction spending in all states with declining enrollments (12 states and the District of Columbia) was below the national average.
 - Montana, West Virginia, Louisiana and Hawaii spent less than half the national average.
- Construction spending in states with stable enrollment (12 states) was below the national average except Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Kansas.
- Of the 12 high growth states, all spent over the national average, except California, Colorado and North Carolina.
- The five highest spending states were Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Delaware.

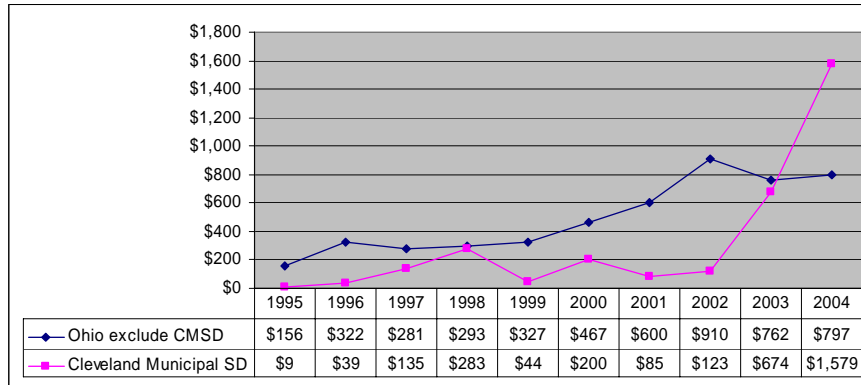
Expenditure Per Student

State California vs. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)



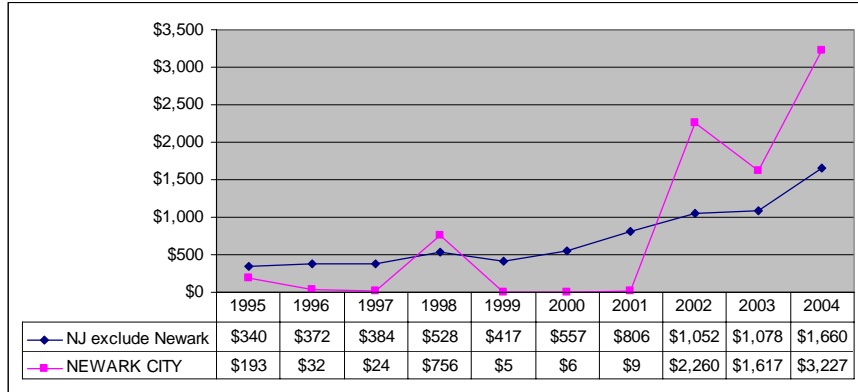
Expenditure Per Student

State Ohio vs. Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD)



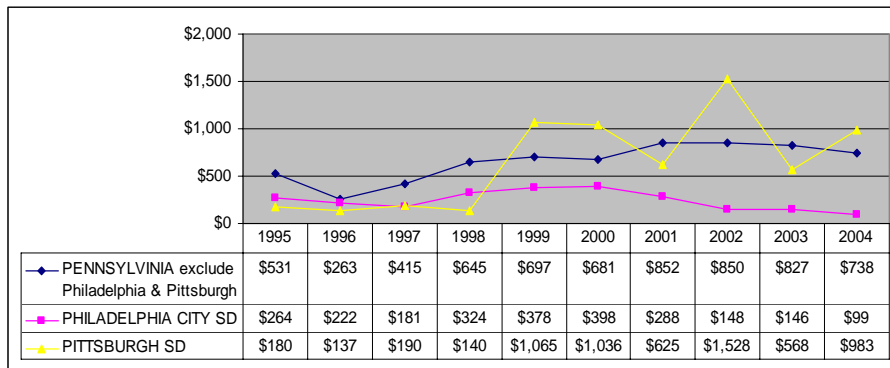
Expenditure Per Student

State of New Jersey vs. Newark City Public Schools



Expenditure Per Student

State of Pennsylvania vs. Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Public School Districts



Application of Research Findings

- What strategies should advocates pursue?
 - At the national level:
 - Encourage a dialog about an appropriate federal response to the design, condition and utilization of public school buildings.
 - At the state levels:
 - Have states done enough?
 - Do they have the capacity to do more?
 - How effective are the adequacy and equity court cases at increasing investment in school construction?
 - What is state policy affecting public school facility planning, design, utilization, management and funding?
 - At the district levels:
 - Is your investing at or below the national average, your state average?
 - What is the allocation between districts within a state?
 - What is district policy on planning, design, utilization, management and funding of school facilities?