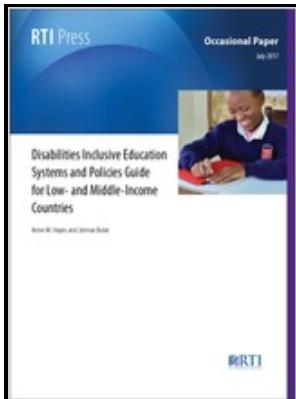


Existing disparities in public school finance and proposals for reform

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston - Arizona School Finance Data Shows Large Funding Disparities Between School Districts



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5 The Politics of School Finance in the 1990s

Until comparatively recently, reformers concentrated on a strategy of reducing large disparities in available revenues and spending levels among school districts, which were the legacy of a school finance system originally built on local control.

3 Equity ISpending on Schools

Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Offices.

Meet the Asian

When the legislature did pass a new formula, it stalled on enacting the taxes to pay for it. To the few black and Hispanic students receiving coveted spots in top schools, the environment can be distressing. During the 1970s, governors and legislatures created commissions and committees to assess equity and propose solutions.

5 The Politics of School Finance in the 1990s

However, during the recession of the early 1980s, when there was not enough revenue generated to pay for everything, many of these supplementary programs were the first to be repealed. School finance inequities linked to race were now a national, and not primarily a southern, issue. On the other hand, opponents of greater concentration have countered that poor children wherever situated ought to be served and that widely allocating funds ensures a broad base of public support for the program.

Mind the achievement gap: California's disparities in education, explained

Analysts of school finance litigation have argued that favorable trends in recent court decisions give cause for optimism about improved school

finance equity Thro, 1989, 1990. School Finance In The 1990s—A Different Context School finance has reemerged as a major issue in the courts, the statehouses, and the legislatures in this country.

Arizona School Finance Data Shows Large Funding Disparities Between School Districts

Unlike its neighbor to the north, Alabama has not significantly changed its education system or its level of financing during this decade. In the late 1970s, early 1980s, and early 1990s, when there was little fiscal slack, legislators and governors did not maintain the high-profile leadership roles in school finance that they demonstrated during periods of relative fiscal plenty Fuhrman, 1994b:33. Litigation or the threat of litigation sometimes spurred changes in state financing systems even when there was no formal court order present.

5 The Politics of School Finance in the 1990s

Former-Governor Bert Combs, the lawyer for the plaintiffs, also emerged as a powerful political leader in the state at this time. The Fiscal Context of School Finance in the 1990s Without fiscal slack, enacting school finance reform is difficult and often requires new taxes to create revenue sources for leveling-up policies or the redistribution of revenues from other state programs or districts to education.

3 Equity ISpending on Schools

During World War II, Kentucky was the number-one state where people were rejected for the draft because of illiteracy.

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