

Colorado: Percent of Personal Income Invested in PK-12 Education

A state can measure its investment in public services and goods in numerous ways. Typically, there is a component that reflects the economic conditions of the state, in addition to the personal wealth of a state. This balance reflects a state's priorities and the tax burden of individuals.

How much of personal income invested in public goods is one component. In Colorado, when one looks at this for PK-12 education, the trend shows a disinvestment of personal income towards education, which equates to millions of dollars over the years.

This is not a new phenomenon in Colorado. It has been going on since the 1980's. One can look at Colorado and compare Colorado to itself or one can compare Colorado to the national average. Comparing Colorado to itself or to the national average, the trend is Colorado invests less as a percent of personal income.

Comparing 2003-04 to 1992-93:

- In 1992-93
 - Colorado's personal income invested in education was 3.67%.
- By 2003-04
 - Colorado's personal income invested in education had fallen .52 percentage points to 3.15%.
 - The national average was 4.53% -- 1.38 percentage points higher than Colorado.

Comparing 2014-15 to 2009-10: (when Great Recession hit the hardest)

- In 2009-10
 - Colorado's personal income invested in education was 3.86%.
- By 2014-15
 - Colorado's personal income invested in education had fallen to 3.34% -- a drop of .52 percentage points.
 - The national average was 3.78% -- 0.44 percentage points higher than Colorado
 - **If Colorado had maintained the same personal income invested as in 2009-10, there would have been \$1.4B more dollars available for public education in 2014-15.**

Sources: CDE, NEA, NCES (data compiled by Augenblick, Palaich & Associates)