

Tennessee Education Facts

- ▶ Tennessee ranked 43rd out of 51 states and the District of Columbia with 2005 per pupil current expenditures of \$6,855.
- ▶ We spend about 75 cents per student on education for every dollar the average state spends. At the same time, our per capita personal income is about 89% of the national average.
- ▶ Spending varies widely across the state: per pupil spending in 2006 ranged from \$5,415.55 in the Gibson County Special School District to \$9,824.61 in the Franklin City School District, a difference of over \$4,409.
- ▶ Students in Tennessee are less likely than their national counterparts to take advanced courses in mathematics and the sciences, along with advanced placement examinations.
- ▶ Only 17% of Tennessee students taking the ACT met the ACT benchmark score in all 4 subjects in 2006—compared to a national average of 21%.
- ▶ Between 1990 and 2003, Tennessee typically ranked in the bottom 20% of states on both 4th and 8th grade reading and math scores of the National Assessment of Education Progress.
- ▶ We are losing the college education footrace. Only 16.0% of Tennesseans held at least a bachelor's degree in 1990 versus over 20% for the nation, a difference of 4.0 percentage points. By 2000, Tennessee's average rose to 19.6% while the national average climbed to 24.4%, a difference of 4.8 percentage points.
- ▶ In 2000, 40% of the adult population in 9 Tennessee counties had less than a high school education; the same year the U.S. average was only 19.6%.
- ▶ Our freshman high school graduation rate has improved but it still trails the nation.