



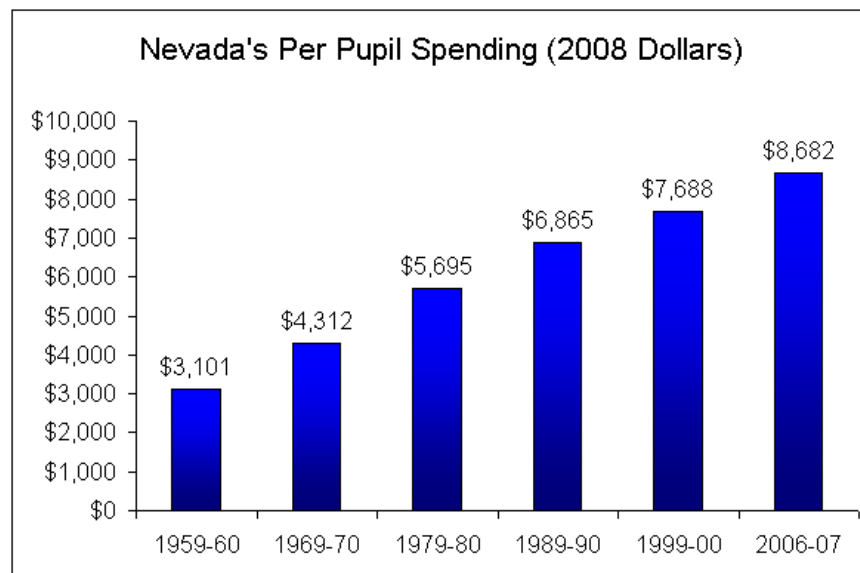
Fact sheet on K-12 education in Nevada: Funding

Prepared by the Nevada Policy Research Institute

Claim: Nevada doesn't spend enough money on K-12 education.

Facts:

- In the past 50 years, Nevada has nearly *tripled* its per-pupil, inflation-adjusted spending on public K-12 education. (Source: [National Center for Education Statistics](#))
- In the 1959-60 school year, Nevada spent \$430 per pupil on education. In 2006-07, it spent \$8,372. (Source: [National Center for Education Statistics](#))
- Adjusted for inflation (2008 dollars), Nevada spent \$3,101 per pupil in 1959-60 and \$8,682 per pupil in 2006-07. (Source: [National Center for Education Statistics](#))
- These amounts don't include billions in other school-related expenditures, including capital construction costs and federal funding.
- Aside from basic per-pupil support from the state, school districts receive money from multiple funds, including:
 - federal funds
 - local funds
 - capital project funds
 - food service funds
 - special service funds
 - debt service funds.

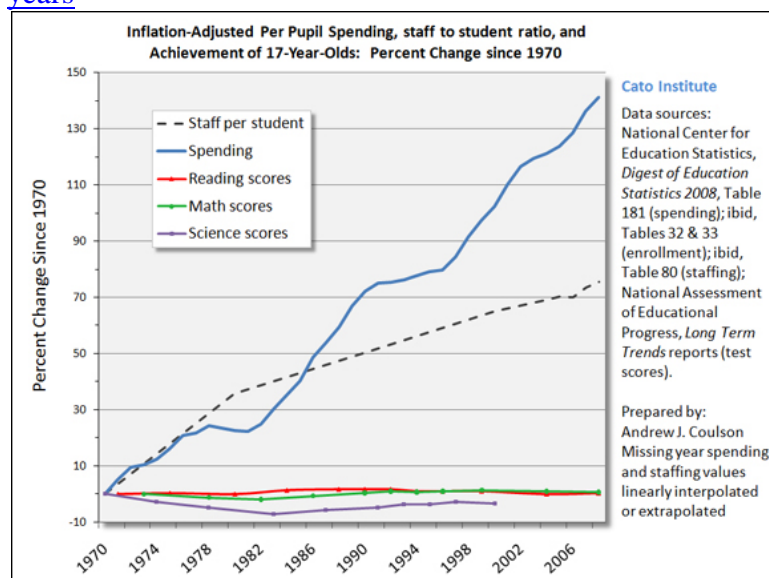


(From the [Nevada Policy Research Institute](#))

Claim: Nevada needs to spend more money on K-12 education.

Facts:

- See above.
- There is little to no correlation between spending and student achievement.
 - [The failure of input-based schooling policies](#)
 - [How spending increases have affected educational performance in the past 30 years](#)



(From the [Cato Institute](#))

- Policy changes, not spending amounts, are what improve student achievement.
 - [Florida's Decade of Education Improvement Proves Reform Works](#)
 - [Why Florida succeeds where Nevada fails](#)

Claim: Nevada's K-12 education system is failing because the state ranks near the bottom in K-12 education spending.

Facts:

- See previous facts.
- Rankings of inputs (money spent) are a bad measurement. We should measure outputs (educational achievement).
 - People don't rave about a restaurant based on how much they paid to eat there (input). They rave about a restaurant because the food was great (output).
- Spending rankings are meaningless.
 - Imagine if every state but Nevada reduced its per-pupil spending to \$3,000. Nevada would then rank first in education funding and would be spending about three times as much as any other state. Yet Nevada's graduation rate would still be 41.8 percent. Would anyone be satisfied if Nevada ranked first in spending but saw terrible results? No. Therefore, spending rankings are a red herring.