

# Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy

## NEWS RELEASE

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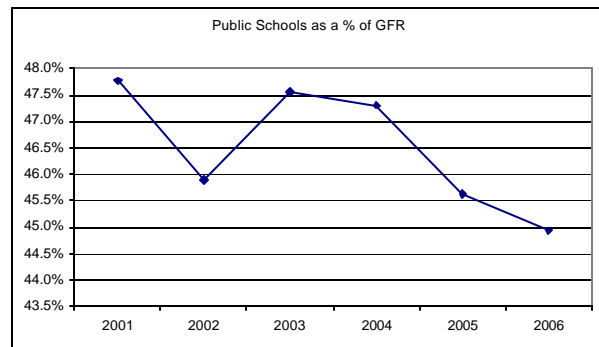
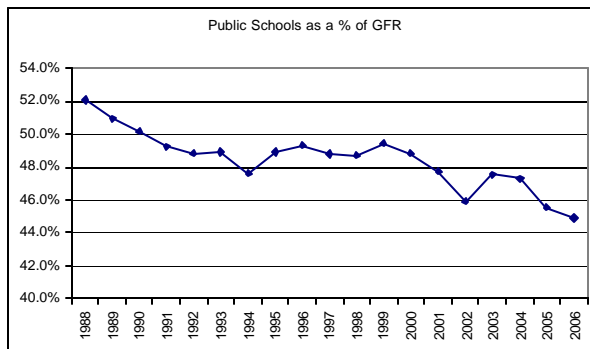
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### Idaho Center on Budget & Tax Policy Report Shows Steady 3-year Decline in Public School Spending as a Share of the General Fund

(MOSCOW) – The Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy today released its report on Idaho General Fund expenditures for Idaho’s public schools. The report highlights an alarming decline in K-12 spending as a share of the General Fund, in real General Fund spending per pupil, and in General Fund spending on K-12 education as a share of personal income.

“It’s clear from this report that the state’s commitment to public education spending has declined in recent years,” said Judith Brown, director of the Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy. “With all the talk about shifting school maintenance and operations from local control to the state General Fund, it’s important for Idahoans to know that the trend from the legislature is to dedicate less and less of the General Fund toward our children’s education.”

In 2003, public school spending represented 47.5% of General Fund revenues. As of this year’s annual state appropriation, the number had dropped to 44.9%. As discussed in the report, other indicators show similar declines. Likewise, the longer-term trends reveal an ongoing decline in the state’s commitment to funding public education adequately.



“In almost every poll on what Idahoans consider their top priorities, education is consistently at the top of the list,” said Brown. “Given this data, it’s fair to question whether our current legislature shares the public’s—the voters’—belief that education should be the state’s top priority.”

United Vision for Idaho is made up of organizations statewide that represent over 50,000 people. The nonpartisan, nonprofit Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy provides timely and credible economic analysis on a range of budget and tax decisions, with special emphasis on how they impact low- and moderate- income Idahoans.

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A Project of United Vision for Idaho  
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