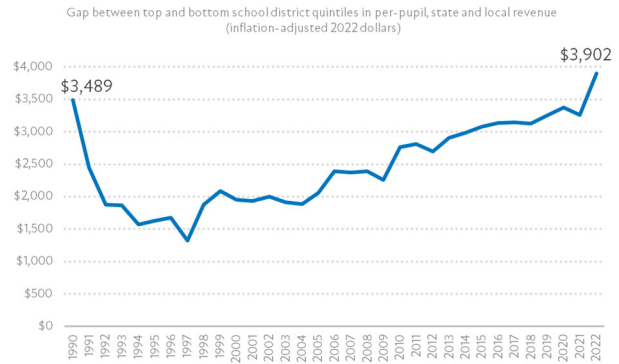


# Funding Gap Between Dawson Springs Independent School District and Wealthiest Districts Is Now Worse than Level Declared Unconstitutional

Passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) in 1990 and accompanying tax increases drastically reduced the funding gap between Kentucky school districts. But years of austere budgets since have eroded funding for education, returning us to pre-KERA inequality.

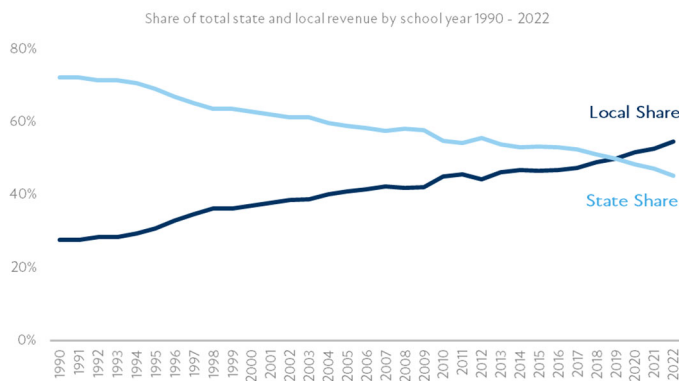
**The Funding Gap Between Kentucky's Poorest and Wealthiest School Districts Now Exceeds the Pre-KERA Gap**



Source: Kentucky Office of Education Accountability (1990 - 2010); KyPolicy analysis of Kentucky Department of Education and CPI-U data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy | kypolicy.org

The state's failure to adequately fund education forces districts to try to make up the cost. Low property wealth makes it difficult for the Dawson Springs Independent School District and others to fill that gap. State disinvestment hurts these districts most.

**The State Now Contributes a Smaller Share of Education Funding Than School Districts**



Source: KyPolicy analysis of data from the Kentucky Department of Education.  
Note: Does not include "On Behalf" revenue due to inconsistencies in the data back to 1990.  
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Share of 2022 state/local education revenue that comes from local sources in Dawson Springs Independent School District:

**23%**

Average that comes from local sources across all districts:

**55%**

Share of revenue that comes from local sources in Kentucky's wealthiest school districts:

**77%**

Note: Does not include "on behalf" payments, much of which goes to pay past unfunded pension liabilities.



To learn more, read the full report:  
[is.gd/kypolicy](https://is.gd/kypolicy)

