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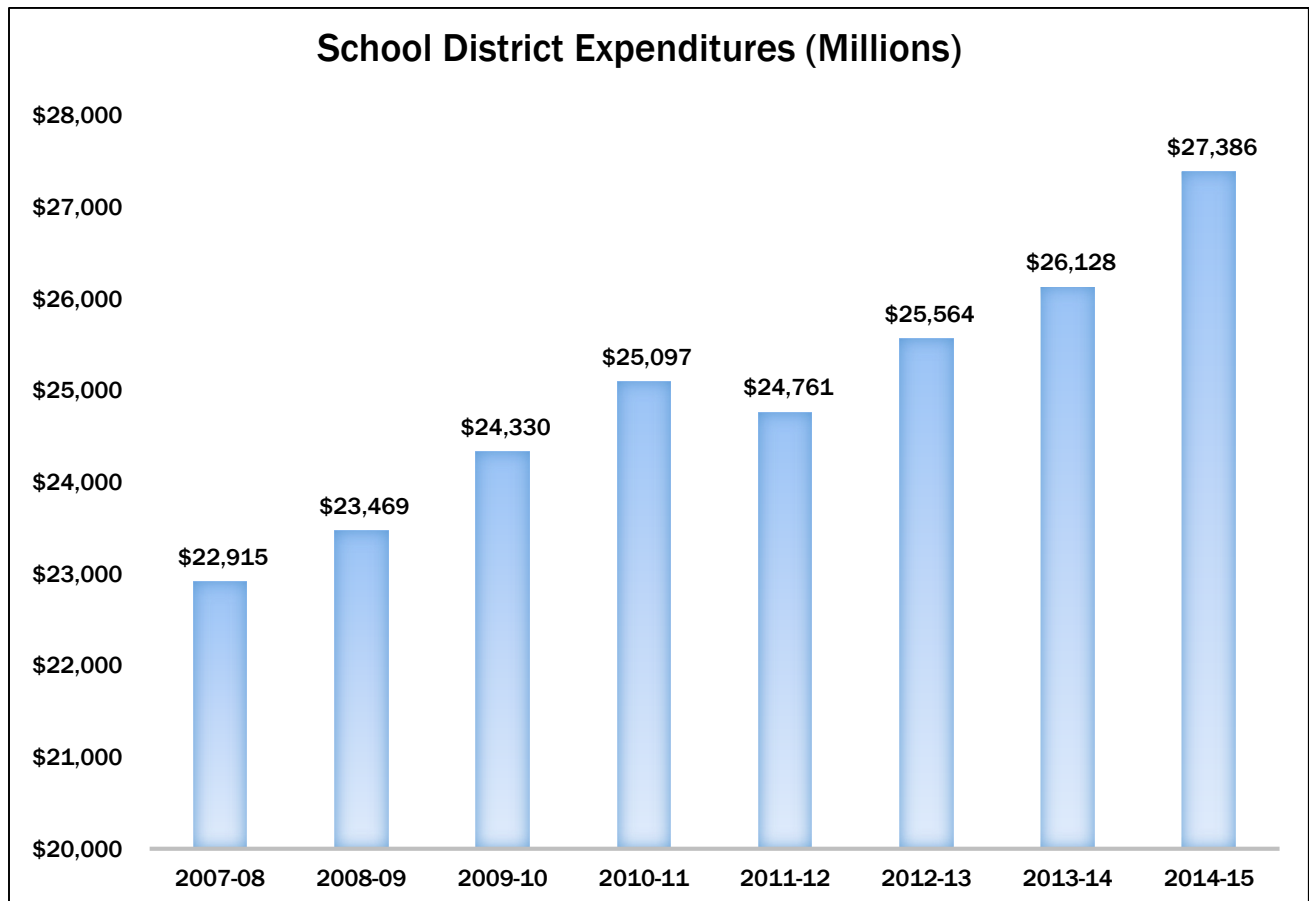
School Spending Update, 2014-15

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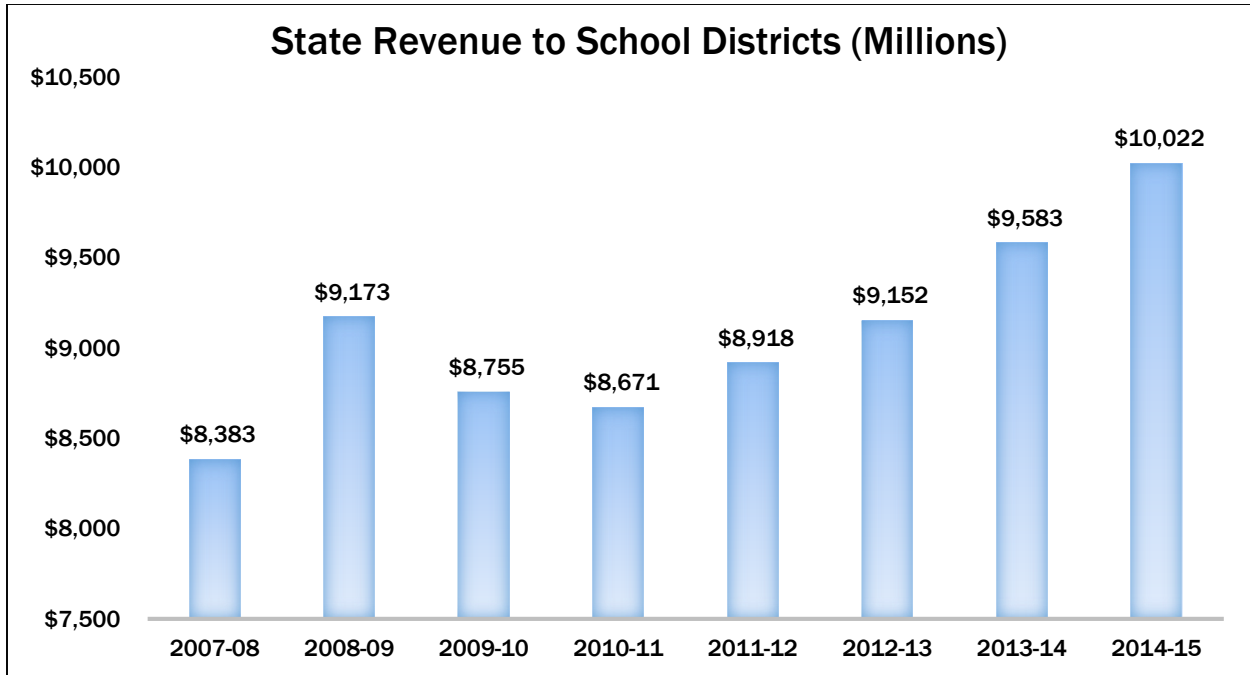
The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently updated its expenditure and revenue figures for the 2014-15 school year. This memo presents trends in spending, revenue, pension contributions, fund balances, and property taxes. Note: All figures from the department's [Annual Financial Reports](#).

Pennsylvania school districts spent approximately \$27.4 billion in 2014-15. This represents a \$1.3 billion increase from 2013-14, despite a 12,000 student decrease in average daily membership.

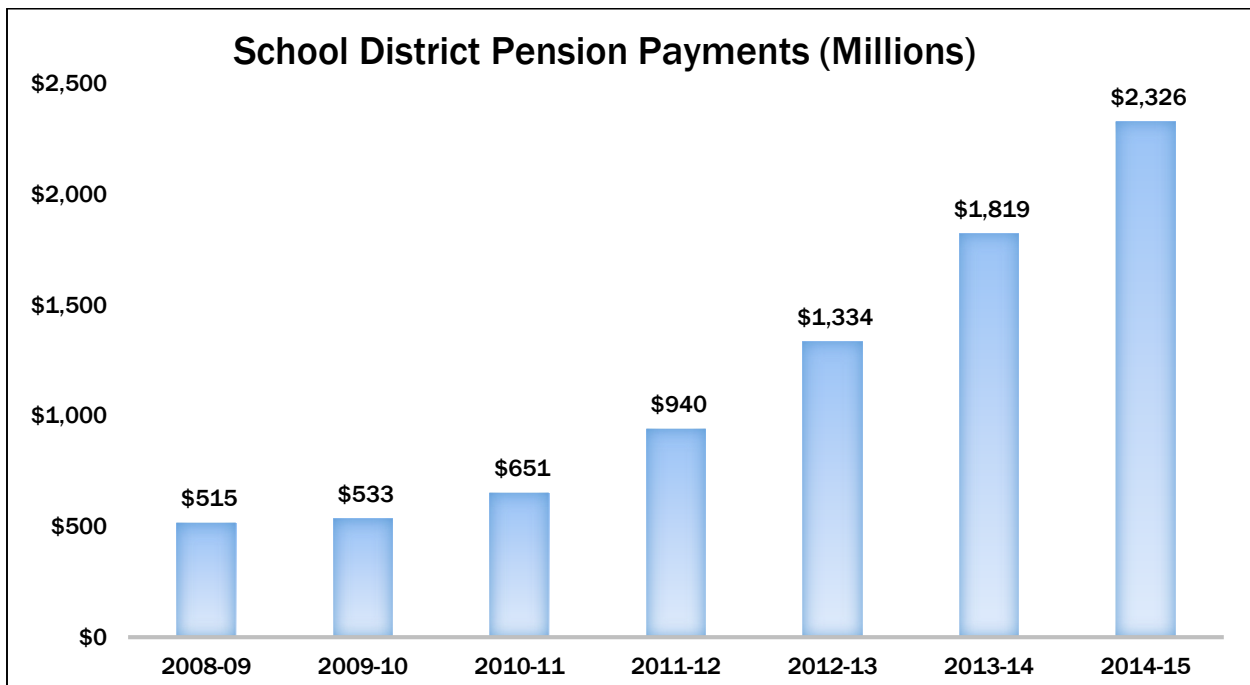
Including charter students, public schools spent \$15,854 per pupil in 2014-15. Total education spending steadily increased over the last five years, save for 2011-12 upon the expiration of temporary federal stimulus dollars.



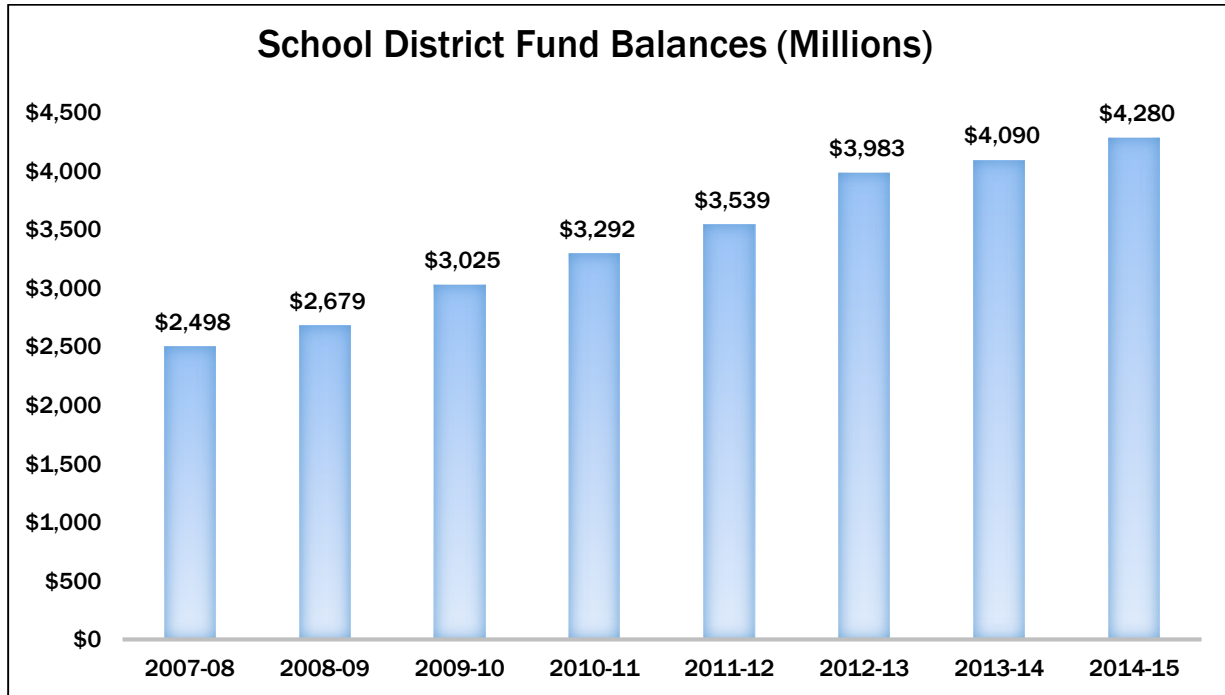
State revenue to school districts reached another record high in 2014-15, at \$10.02 billion. State support slightly dropped under Gov. Rendell in 2009-10 and was supplanted by federal stimulus funding. However, since 2010-11, state aid has consistently increased. On a per-pupil basis, state taxpayers contribute roughly \$5,800, which [exceeds the national average](#).



School districts pension contributions increased from \$1.9 billion in 2013-14 to \$2.3 billion in 2014-15. Schools have experienced a four-fold increase in pension costs during the past six years. These costs [will continue rising](#).



School districts accumulated \$200 million more in their reserve funds in 2014-15, up to \$4.28 billion. This amount represents 15 percent of their total revenue and includes committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances.



Property tax collections increased by 2.8 percent in 2014-15, with \$12.28 billion collected.

