



The disparities in educational opportunities for students in different school districts are significant. In 2005, the legislature raised the maximum allowed referendum cap from 18% to 26% of the basic formula. That policy change set off rapid growth in the funding disparity between districts that are able to pass significant referendums due to high property wealth and those district that cannot. More recent legislation in 2015-16 gave school boards the authority to access up to \$724 per pupil in local levy dollars to support the basic education programs in their schools, which reduced the funding disparity. However, the gap continues to grow and is excessive, setting up an public school system of "haves" and "have nots" based merely on where students live.