

Appendix: State Supreme Courts and School Finance

Below are the significant state supreme court rulings that have either struck down the existing school finance system or upheld it. Many cases have had several state supreme court rulings; the citations listed below are to either the initial or the most important ruling affecting school financing within a state.

State supreme courts ruling in favor of greater equity and/or adequacy, in alphabetical order of state:

Alabama: *Ex Parte James*, 713 So. 2d 869 (1997)

Arizona: *Roosevelt Elem. Sch. Dist. No. 66 v. Bishop*, 179 Ariz. 233, 877 P.2d 806 (1994)

Arkansas: *Dupree v. Alma School District No. 30* 29, Ark. 340, 651 S.W.2d 90 (1983)

California: *Serrano v. Priest*, 5 Cal.3d 584, 487 P.2d 1241 (1971) (*Serrano I*); *Serrano v. Priest*, 18 Cal.3d 728, 557 P.2d 929 (1976) (*Serrano II*) (*Serrano I* was based on federal grounds held to be invalid under *Rodriguez*. *Serrano II* is based on state constitutional provisions.)

Connecticut: *Horton v. Meskill*, 172 Conn 615, 376 A.2d 359 (1977) (*Horton I*)

Idaho: *Idaho Schools for Equal Educ. Opportunity v. Idaho State Bd. of Educ.*, 128 Idaho 276, 912P.2d 644 (1996)

Kentucky: *Rose v. Council for Better Education*, 790 S.W. 2d 186 (1989)

Massachusetts: *McDuffy v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education*, 415 Mass. 545, 615 N.E.2d 516 (1993)

Montana: *State ex rel. Woodahl v. Straub*, 161 Mont. 141, 520 P.2d 776 (1974); *Helena Elementary School Dist. No. One v. State*, 769 P.2d 684 (1989) (*State ex. rel Woodahl* found that a modest equalization scheme was constitutional; *Helena* found the existing scheme unconstitutional)

New Hampshire: *Claremont School District v. Governor*, 138 N.H. 183, 635 A.2d 1375 (1993)

New Jersey: *Robinson v. Cahill*, 62 N.J. 473, 303 A.2d 273 (1973) (*Robinson I*); *Abbott v. Burke* 119 N.J. 287, 575 A.2d 359 (1990) (*Abbott II*)

North Carolina: *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336, 488 S.E.2d 249 (1997)
 Ohio: *DeRolph v. State*, 78 Ohio St. 3d 193, 677 N.E.2d 733 (1997)
 Tennessee: *Tennessee Small School Systems v. McWherter*, 851 S.W.2d 139 (1993)
 Texas: *Edgewood Independent School Dist. v. Kirby*, 33 Tex. Sup. J. 12, 777 S.W.2d 391 (1989) (*Edgewood I*)
 Vermont: *Brigham v. State*, 692 A.2d 384 (1997)
 Washington: *Seattle School Dist. No. 1 v. State of Washington*, 90 Wash. 2d 476, 585 P.2d 71 (1978)
 West Virginia: *Pauley v. Kelly*, 162 W.Va. 672, 255 S.E.2d 859 (1979)
 Wyoming: *Washakie County School Dist. No. One v. Herschler*, 606 P.2d 310 (1980); *Campbell v. State*, 907 P.2d 1238 (1995).

State supreme courts ruling against greater equity and/or adequacy, in alphabetical order of state:

Alaska: *Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District v. Alaska*, 931 P.2d 391 (1997)
 Arizona: *Shofstall v. Hollins*, 110 Ariz. 88, 515 P.2d 590 (1973)
 Colorado: *Lujan v. Colorado State Bd. of Educ.*, 649 P.2d 1005 (1982)
 Florida: *Coalition for Adequacy and Fairness in School Funding v. Chiles*, 6909 So. 2d 400 (1996)
 Georgia: *McDaniel v. Thomas*, 248 Ga. 632, 285 S.E.2d 156 (1982)
 Idaho: *Thompson v. Engelking*, 96 Idaho 793, 537 P.2d 635 (1975)
 Illinois: *Blase v. State*, 55 Ill.2d 94, 302 N.E.2d 46 (1973); *Committee for Educ. Rights v. Edgar*, 174 Ill. 2d. 1, 672 N.E. 2d 1178 (1996)
 Maine: *School Administrative Dist. No. 1 v. Commissioner, Dept. of Education*, 659 A.2d 854 (1995)
 Maryland: *Hornbeck v. Somerset County Bd. of Educ.*, 295 Md. 597, 458 A.2d 758 (1983)
 Michigan: *Milliken v. Green*, 390 Mich. 389; 212 N.W.2d 711 (1973)
 Minnesota: *Skeen v. State*, 505 N.W. 2d 299 (1993)
 New York: *Bd. of Educ., Levittown Union Free School Dist. v. Nyquist*, 57 N.Y.2d 127, 439 N.E.2d 359 (1982)
 North Carolina: *Britt v. North Carolina State Bd. of Educ.*, 86 NC App 282, 357 S.E.2d 432 *aff'd mem* 320 N.C. 790, 361 S.E.2d 71 (1987)
 North Dakota: *Bismarck Pub. Sch. Dist. #1 v. State*, 511 N.W. 2d 247 (1994)
 Ohio: *Board of Education v. Walter*, 58 Ohio St.2d 368, 390 N.E.2d 813 (1979)

Oklahoma: *Fair School Finance Council of Oklahoma, Inc. v. State*, 746 P.2d 1135 (1987)

Oregon: *Olsen v. State ex rel Johnson*, 276 Ore. 9, 554 P.2d 139 (1976);
Coalition for Equitable Sch. Funding v. State of Oregon, 311 Ore. 300, 811 P.2d 116 (1991)

Pennsylvania: *Danson v. Casey*, 484 Pa. 415, 399 A.2d 360 (1979)

Rhode Island: *City of Pawtucket v. Sundlun*, 662 A.2d 40 (1995)

South Carolina: *Richland County v. Campbell*, 294 S.C. 346, 364 S.E.2d 470 (1988)

Virginia: *Scott v. Commonwealth*, 247 Va. 379; 443 S.E.2d 138 (1994)

Washington: *Northshore School Dist. No. 417 v. Kinnear*, 84 Wash. 2d 685, 530 P.2d 178 (1974)

Wisconsin: *Buse v. Smith*, 74 Wis.2d 550, 247 N.W. 2d 141 (1976); *Kukor v. Grover* 148 Wisc.2d 469, 436 N.W.2d 568 (1989)