

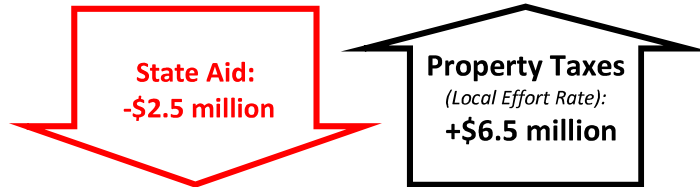


## Norfolk Public Schools' Financial Story 2010-2011 to 2018-2019

*"The mission of Norfolk Public Schools is to prepare all students to pursue their goals for the future."*

Norfolk Public Schools prides itself in providing students with outstanding educational opportunities at an economical cost to our taxpayers. However, we (like the rest of Nebraska Public Schools) are becoming more reliant upon local property taxes, as our state aid decreases.

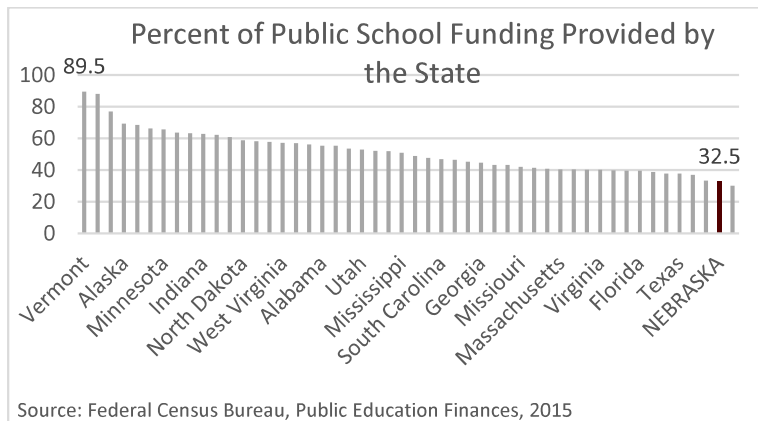
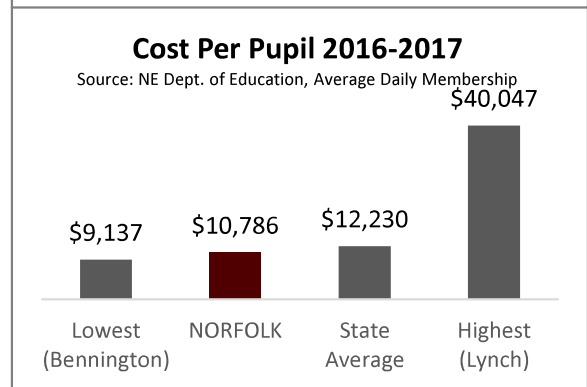
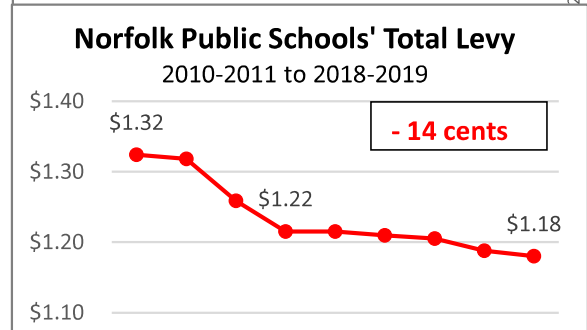
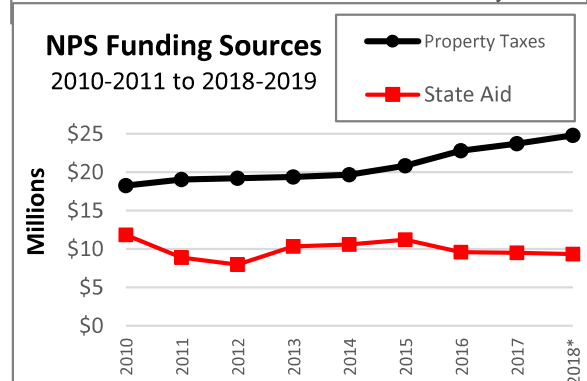
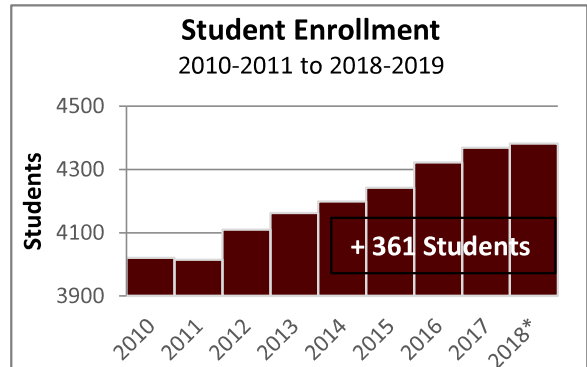
Norfolk Public Schools' state aid has decreased by \$2,501,022 in the last 8 years, even though our student enrollment has increased by 361 students. This means that we are more dependent than ever before upon local property taxes.



Norfolk Public Schools understands the effect this has on our local tax payers and has responded by controlling our spending and reducing our levy. During this eight year period, our average budget increase was only 2.38% (compared to an average 3.6% annual increase for state government), and we reduced our tax levy by 14 cents.

This conservative fiscal approach has resulted in Norfolk Public Schools being ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of 245 Nebraska public schools in terms of efficiency. Our cost per pupil in 2016-2017 (most recent year available via the Nebraska Department of Education), was \$10,785.65. This is \$1,444.37 less per student than the state average of \$12,230.02.

Norfolk Public Schools supports policy-makers who are trying to find a solution to Nebraska's high property taxes. However, it is imperative that this solution does not result in less funding for our public schools! **Nebraska ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation when it comes to state funding for public schools.** We cannot reduce State funding for education any further if we want to maintain our high-quality education system and ensure that all of our students are prepared to pursue their goals for the future. Any reduction in property taxes, must be paired with an alternate State revenue source for public education.



\* Unofficial estimates for 2018-2019