

Yellow SCHOOL BUS Blues

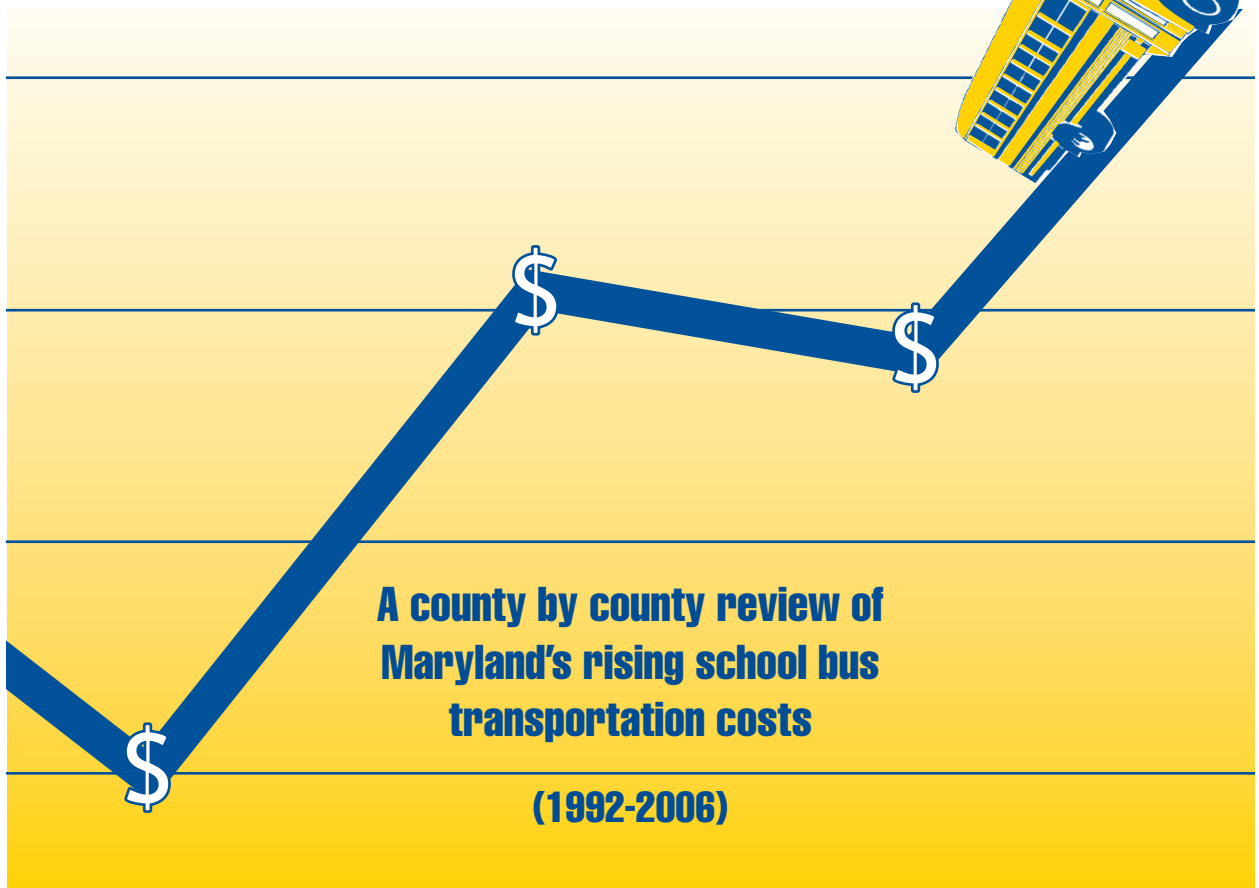
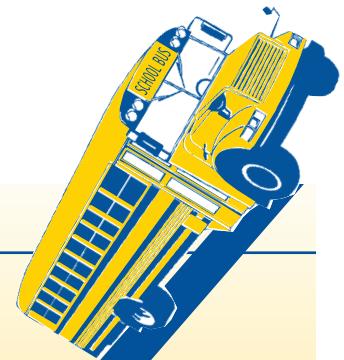




Table of Contents

- 2Allegany County
- 3Anne Arundel County
- 4Baltimore County
- 5Calvert County
- 6Caroline County
- 7Carroll County
- 8Cecil County
- 9Charles County
- 10Dorchester County
- 11Frederick County
- 12Garrett County
- 13Harford County
- 14Howard County
- 15Kent County
- 16Montgomery County
- 17Prince George's County
- 18Queen Anne's County
- 19Somerset County
- 20St. Mary's County
- 21Talbot County
- 22Washington County
- 23Wicomico County
- 24Worcester County

Our Mission

1000 Friends of Maryland works to protect Maryland's natural areas and open spaces, improve the quality of life in our communities, restore once vibrant cities and towns, and improve public transportation through meaningful public participation, education, research and advocacy.

The information for this report is from Maryland Department of Education, Office of Pupil Transportation End-of-Year Reports: 1992-2006.

Authors: Chris Sewell
Lena-Kate Ahern
Allison Hartless

Reviewers: Dru Schmidt-Perkins
Douglas Stewart

Design: Jane Polanka, Polanka Design

© October 2007 by 1000 Friends of Maryland

1000 Friends of Maryland
1209 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
tel: 410.385.2910
www.friendsofmd.org

This report compiled the Total Miles Traveled, Total Pupils Transported, and the Total Expenditures for every Maryland county from 1992-2006. These numbers were gathered from the End-of-Year reports released by the Maryland Department of Education, Office of Pupil Transportation.



Smart growth better supports schools and makes communities stronger. School budgets are too tight to have scarce dollars disappear out of school bus tail pipes.

Executive Summary

The location and design of new development greatly affects the costs incurred by governments and taxpayers. Public schools are no exception. Decisions about where to locate new schools and whether to maintain existing neighborhood schools have major consequences for strained budgets. Broader local and state policies that can encourage low-density development outside existing communities also affect school budgets.

Yellow School Bus Blues documents one hidden cost of Maryland's recent development patterns. The report examines the rapidly increasing school bus budget. Since 1992 statewide expenditures for school bus transportation have more than doubled, to \$438 million.

Yellow School Bus Blues is a snapshot look at the cost of getting Maryland students to school. The data gathered by 1000 Friends from the Maryland Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation End-of-Year reports from 1992-2006 include the total miles traveled, total pupils transported, and the total expenditures for each Maryland county.*

While there are other factors that affect these costs such as inflation, wage increases, rise in gas prices, and the need to open or close local schools, *Yellow School Bus Blues* focuses on two issues local governments can control. Local governments' decisions affect the number of students in the county and where these students live. Land use decisions also determine if schools are located so that students can walk or bike to school.

Key Findings

- From 1992 to 2006 the total miles traveled by all Maryland county school buses increased by 25%. Maryland school buses now travel over 117.2 million miles a year, a 23 million mile increase!
- Statewide, school bus costs rose 104%. The combined county budgets rose from \$215 million spent in 1992 to \$438 million in 2006. In just under 15 years cost to bus students more than doubled.
- 9 out of 23 Maryland counties saw their total expenditures increase by more than 100%.
- 5 of 23 counties saw their transportation budgets increase despite a decrease in the number of students they transported.

Recommendations

1000 Friends of Maryland supports policies that:

- Maintain existing neighborhood schools.
- Locate new schools where more students can walk or bike to school.
- Connect schools with bike lanes and sidewalks to make it safe for students to get to or from schools.

Smart growth better supports schools and makes communities stronger. School budgets are too tight to have scarce dollars disappear out of school bus tail pipes.

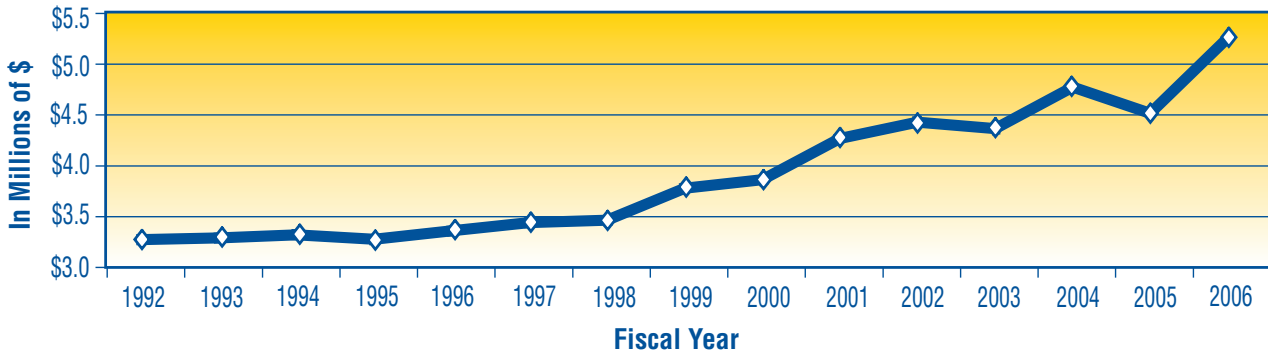
* Note: full data tables can be found at www.friendsofmd.org



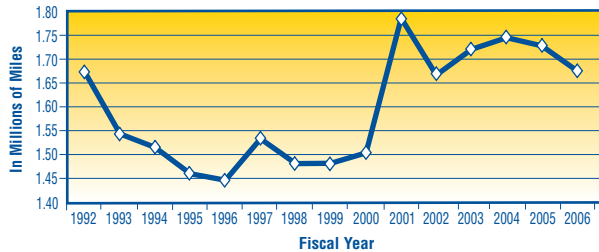
Allegany County

Despite a loss in this county's overall population, the total miles to transport the county's students increased slightly from 1992 to 2006. The number of students transported fell from 7,721 to 6,345, yet the total expenditures rose over 60% to \$5.2 million per year in 2006, up from \$3.3 million per year in 1992. The price per student rose 96% from \$421 a year to \$825 a year.

Total Expenditures



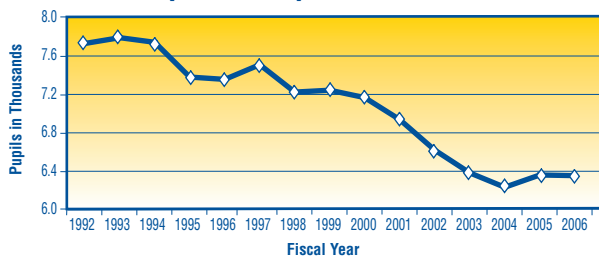
Total Route Miles



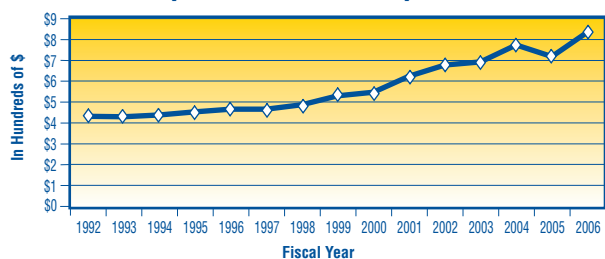
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$421.03	\$3,250,791	7,721	1,673,442
2006	\$824.98	\$5,234,477	6,345	1,676,790

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

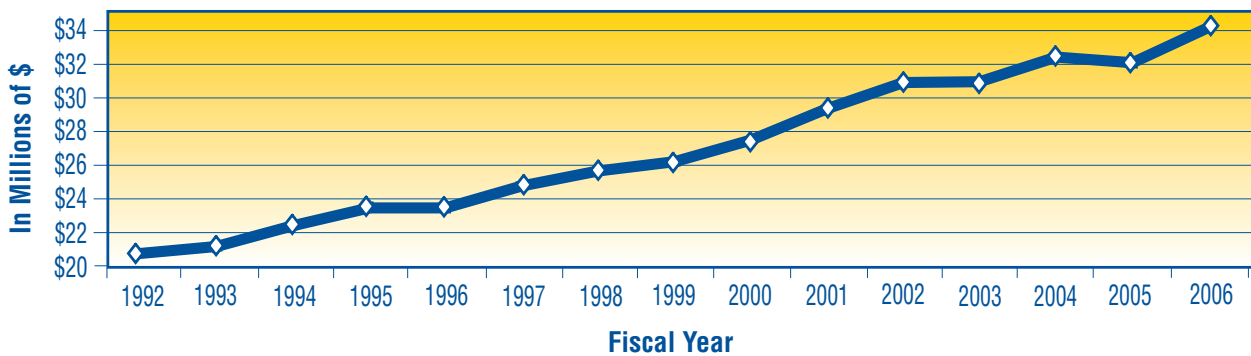




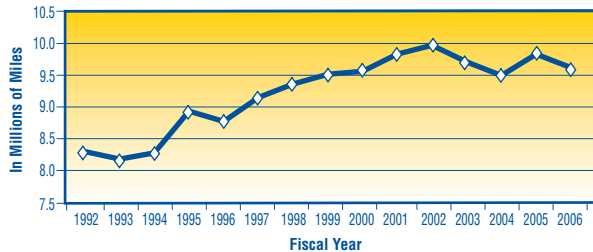
Anne Arundel County

Over the fifteen years from 1992 to 2006 the total miles needed to transport the county's students increased 16% from 8.3 million miles per year to 9.6 million. The number of students transported each year increased 22% from 45,000 students per year to 55,000 per year in 2006. The total expenditures rose almost 65% to \$34.1 million per year in 2006, up from \$20.7 million per year in 1992. The price per student rose 34% from \$460 to \$617 per year.

Total Expenditures



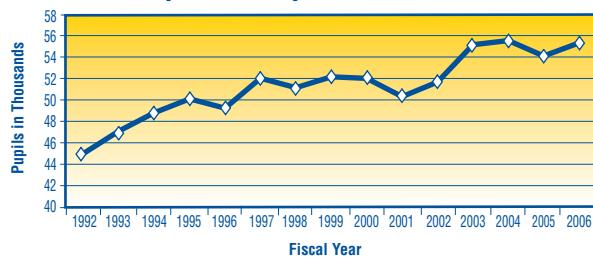
Total Route Miles



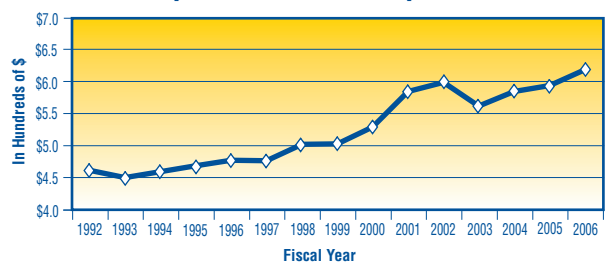
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$460.24	\$20,725,336	45,032	8,310,732
2006	\$617.20	\$34,161,433	55,349	9,633,747

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

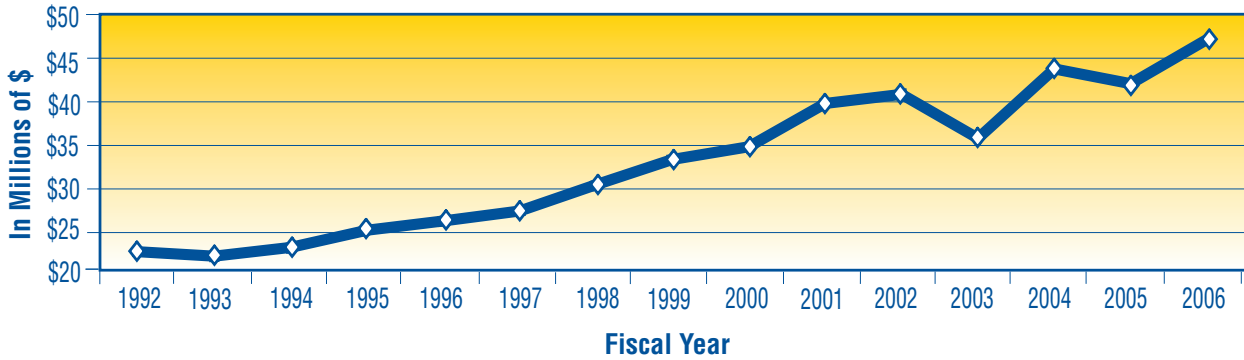




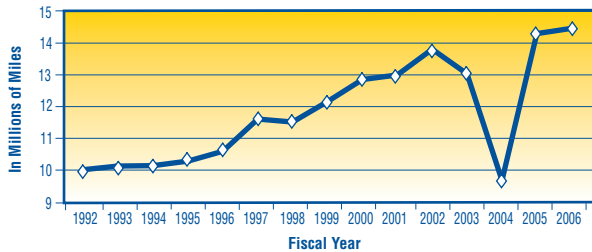
Baltimore County

Baltimore County's costs have risen by more than \$24 million since 1992. This is a 107% increase although the number of students transported has increased by only 24%. Buses in this county now travel 4.9 million miles more per year than in 1992. The cost to bus each student per year increased 67% over the fifteen years, from \$402 to \$671.

Total Expenditures



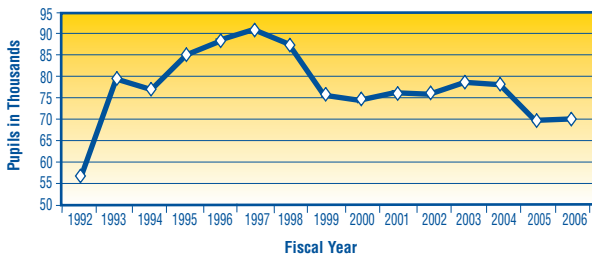
Total Route Miles



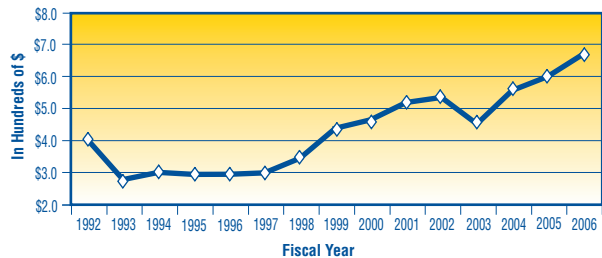
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$402.83	\$22,703,621	56,360	10,010,633
2006	\$671.13	\$47,050,311	70,106	14,915,011

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

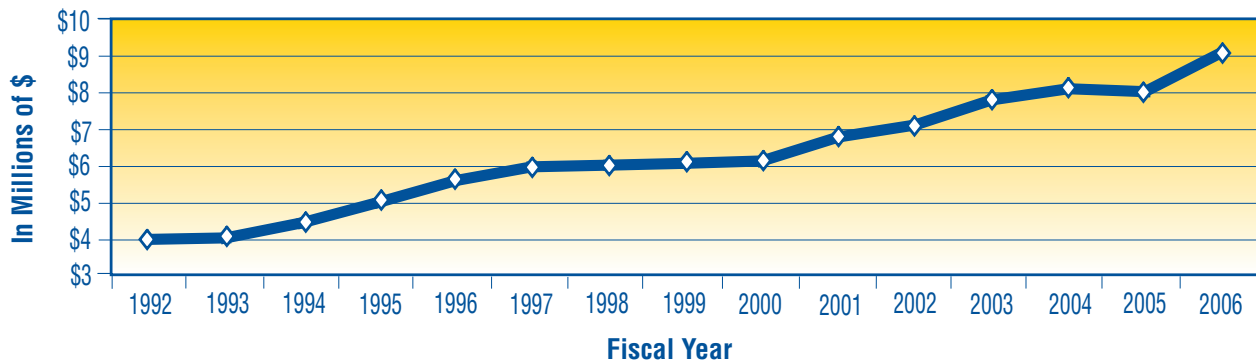




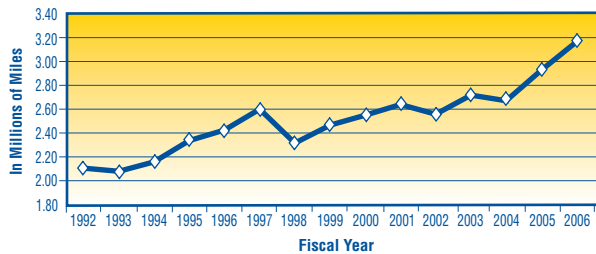
Calvert County

Calvert County experienced a 51% increase in the total miles that their school buses traveled each year. The county's expenditures per pupil rose 47% over the fifteen years. The total expenditures increased a dramatic 126%, from \$4 million in 1992 to \$9.1 million in 2006. The student population has grown by 53% since 1992.

Total Expenditures



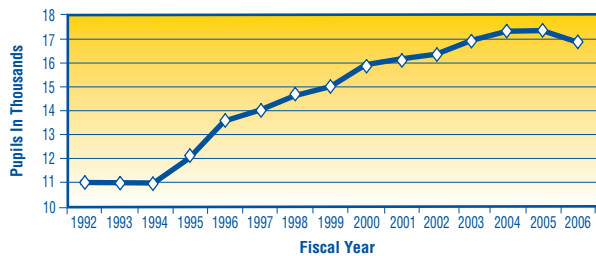
Total Route Miles



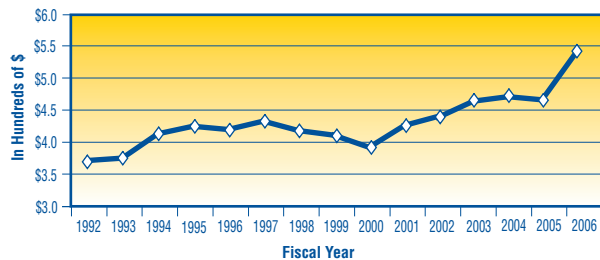
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$366.55	\$4,017,715	10,961	2,083,500
2006	\$541.10	\$9,099,081	16,816	3,138,903

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

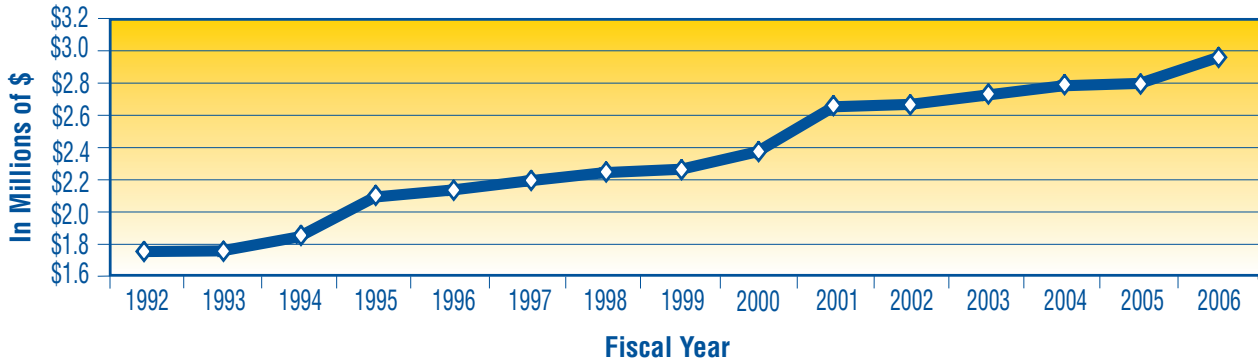




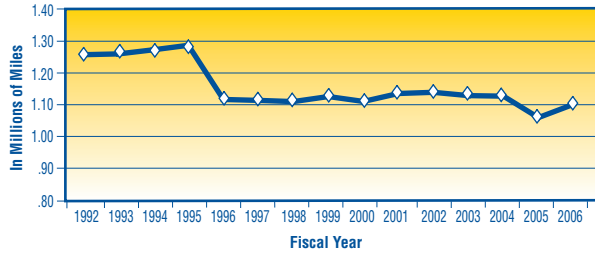
Caroline County

Caroline County is one of two counties to have a decrease in total miles traveled per year over the 15 year period. Total miles per year fell 12% from 1.3 million miles traveled in 1992 to 1.1 million miles in 2006. The number of students transported grew slightly, but the total expenditures and the expenditures per pupil increased significantly. Total cost to Caroline's busing budget per year increased 68%, and the cost per student increased 59%.

Total Expenditures



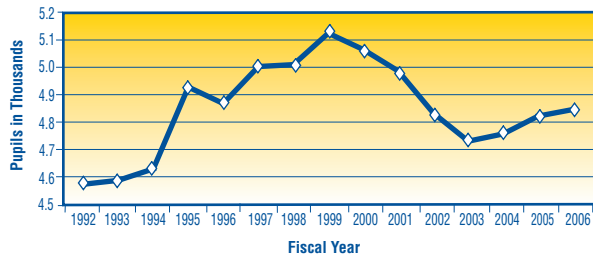
Total Route Miles



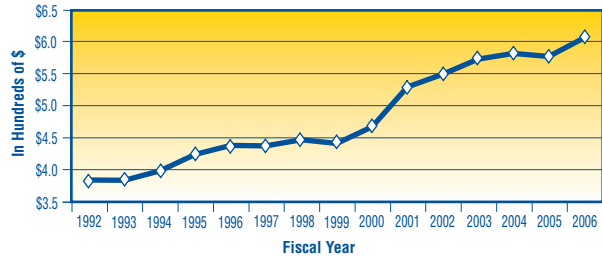
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$384.00	\$1,759,868	4,583	1,262,740
2006	\$609.64	\$2,960,421	4,856	1,107,026

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

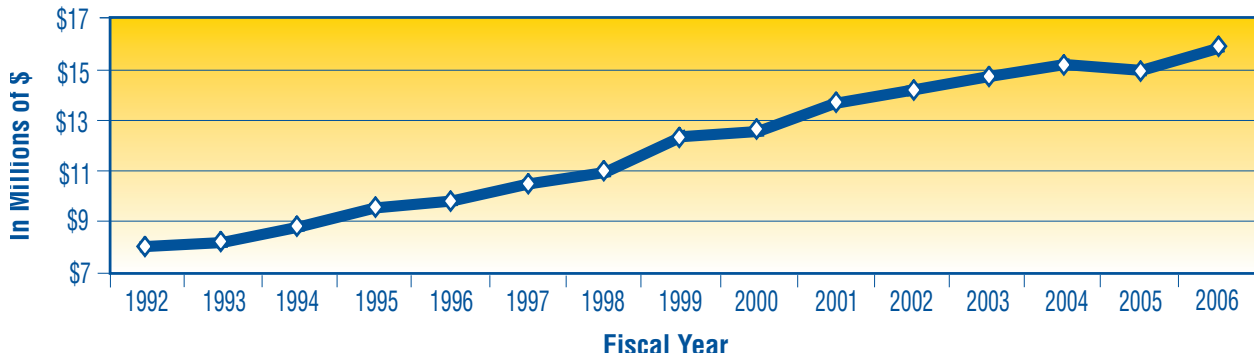




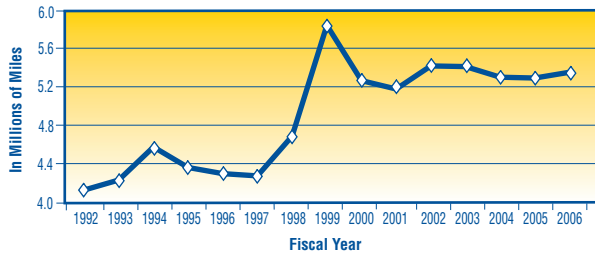
Carroll County's total school bus expenditures grew \$7.9 million since 1992. This 99% increase reflects a 37% increase in the number of students transported and a 30% increase in the total miles traveled. The individual cost per student grew \$176, from \$385 to \$561 over the 15 year period.

Carroll County

Total Expenditures



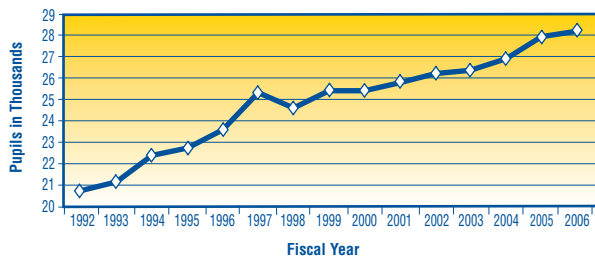
Total Route Miles



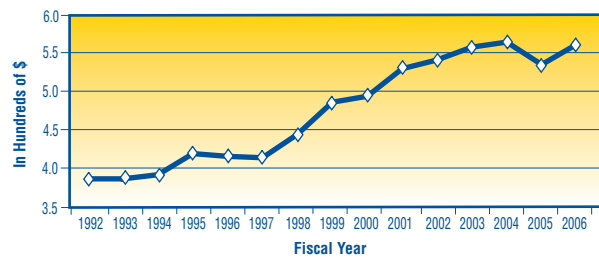
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$384.77	\$7,948,979	20,659	4,132,588
2006	\$560.72	\$15,820,273	28,214	5,377,724

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

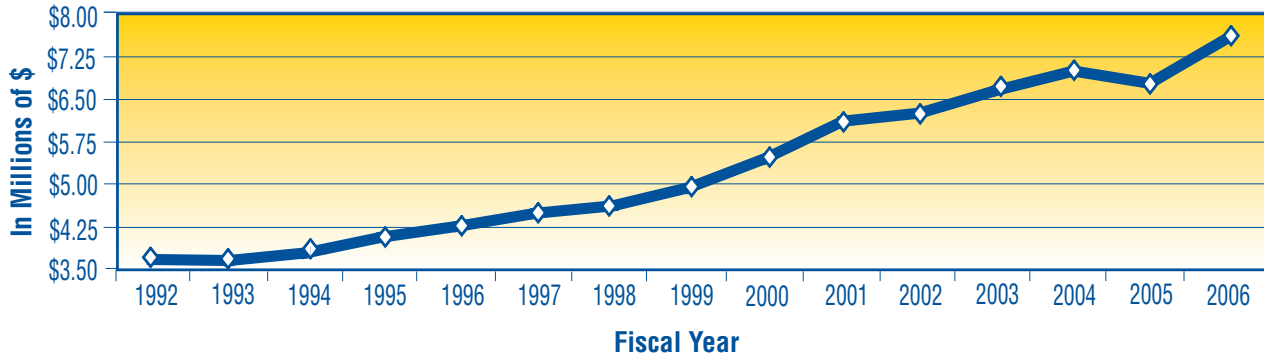




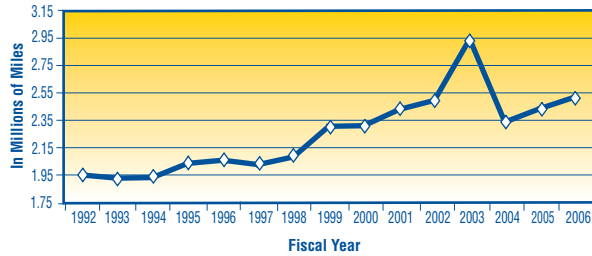
Cecil County

This is one of nine Maryland counties that experienced an increase to total expenditures of over 100%. In 15 years Cecil County's school bus budget grew to \$7.6 million in 2006, up from \$3.7 million in 1992. The number of pupils the county transported annually increased by 32% to just over 15,000, and the number of miles traveled each year grew by 30% to 2.5 million miles per year in 2006. Cecil's cost per student rose 55%, from \$324 in 1992 to \$503 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



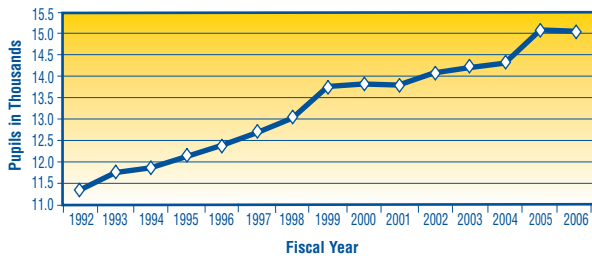
Total Route Miles



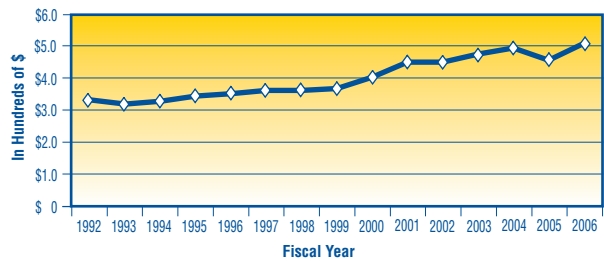
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$324.06	\$3,687,773	11,380	1,934,207
2006	\$502.83	\$7,573,649	15,062	2,526,580

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

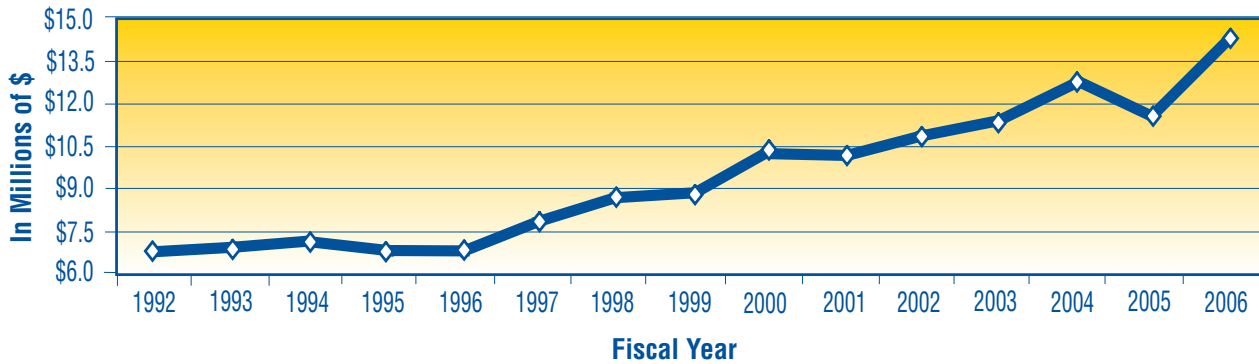




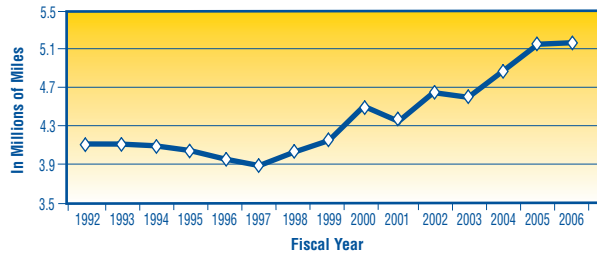
Charles County

With an increase of \$7 million over 15 years, this county witnessed a 95% increase in its total expenditures for school buses. Total pupils transported rose by 41%, and the total route miles traveled annually in the county increased more than 1 million miles over the 15 years, a 25% increase. Cost per student increased 39% from \$413 in 1992 to \$573 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



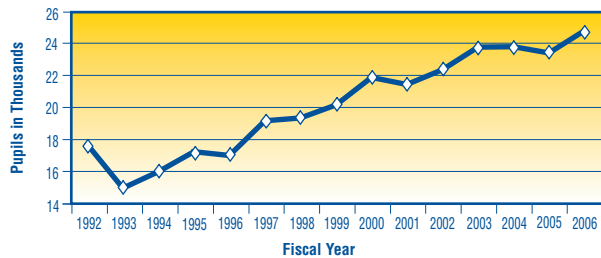
Total Route Miles



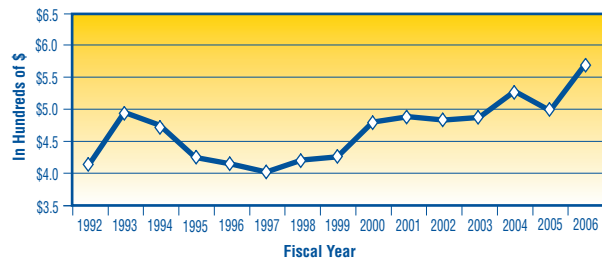
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$412.74	\$7,276,168	17,629	4,133,765
2006	\$573.01	\$14,218,565	24,814	5,183,638

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

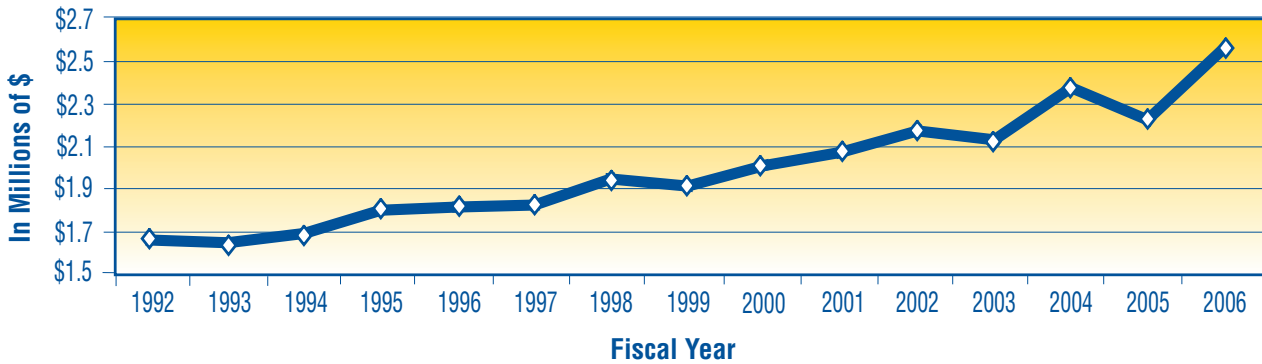




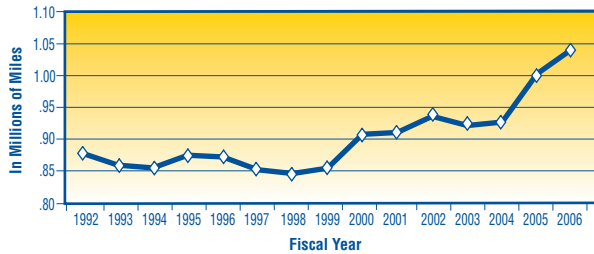
Dorchester County

This county saw the number of students transported annually grow by only 7%, but witnessed a 53% increase to school bus costs. The county also saw an 18% increase in the number of route miles logged.

Total Expenditures



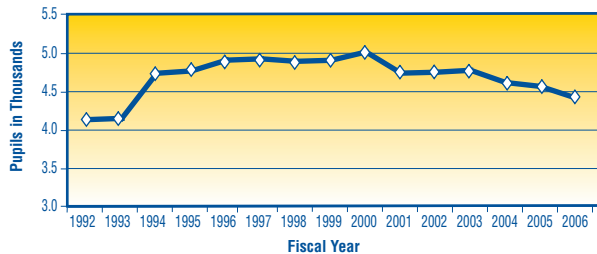
Total Route Miles



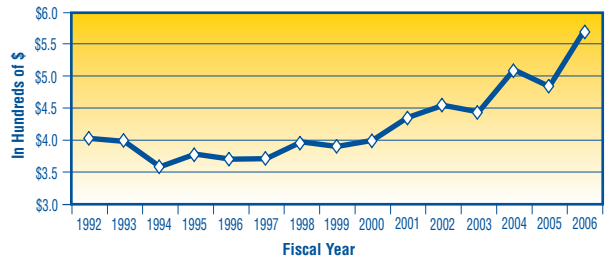
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$401.91	\$1,655,049	4,118	882,094
2006	\$573.71	\$2,524,897	4,401	1,044,705

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

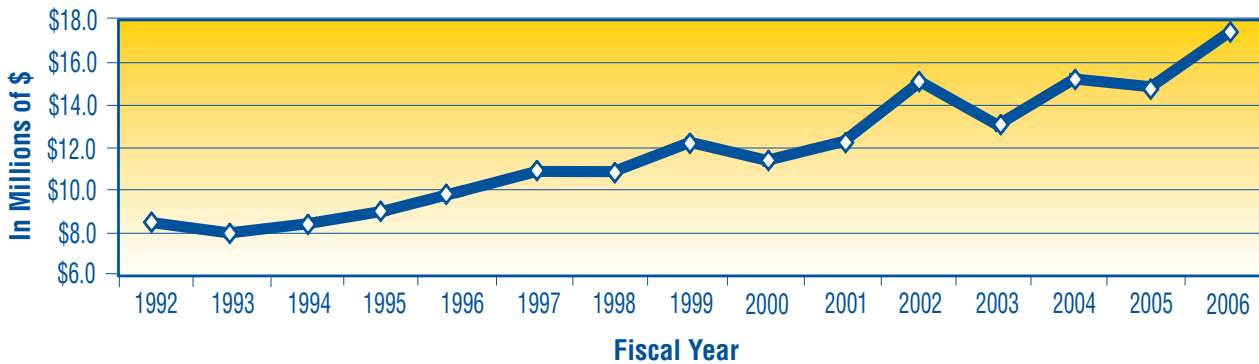




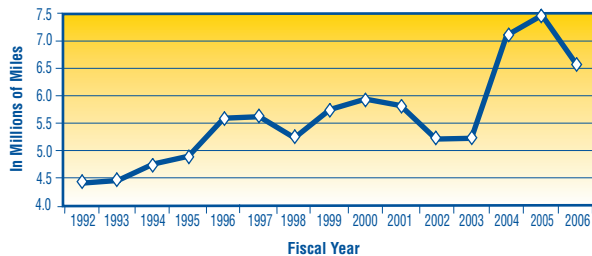
Yearly school bus expenditures more than doubled in this county, from \$8.4 million in 1992 to \$17.5 million in 2006. The number of route miles traveled rose 2.1 million miles, up by almost 50% in the fifteen years. The number of students transported increased by more than 50%, and the cost per student rose from \$371 to \$509 during the same 15-year period.

Frederick County

Total Expenditures



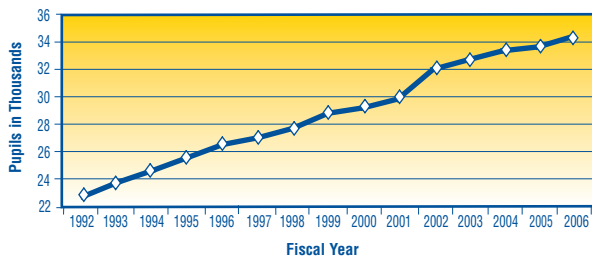
Total Route Miles



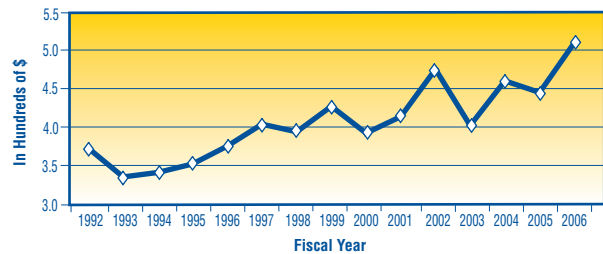
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$371.22	\$8,417,150	22,674	4,421,538
2006	\$509.53	\$17,511,670	34,368	6,551,616

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

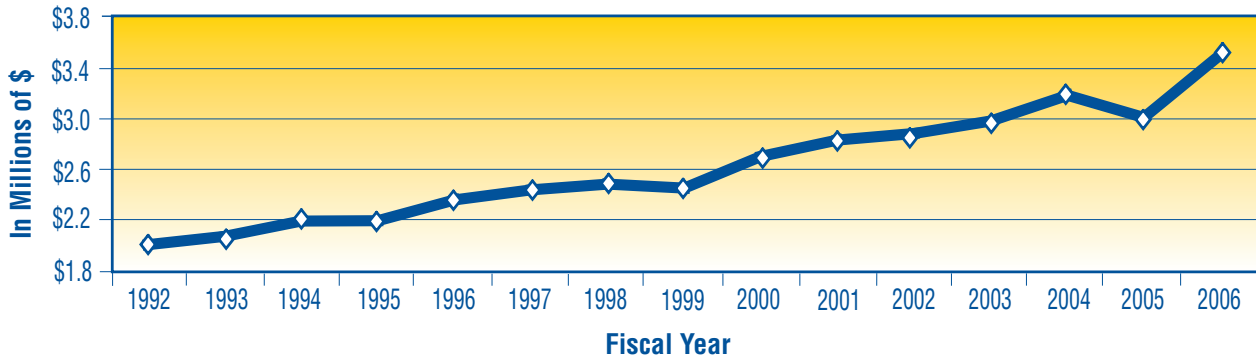




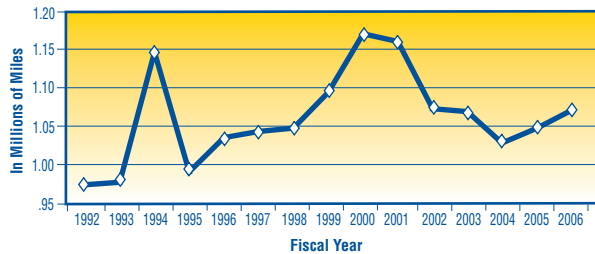
Garrett County

This county saw a consistent, slow, yearly decrease in the number of students transported, for a total loss of 9% or 461 students. However, the total cost to bus students rose \$1.5 million from the 1992 level of just under \$2 million. The number of miles traveled increased by 97,000, a gain of 10%. Expenditures per pupil almost doubled from \$397 per student to \$768 per student in the same 15-year period.

Total Expenditures



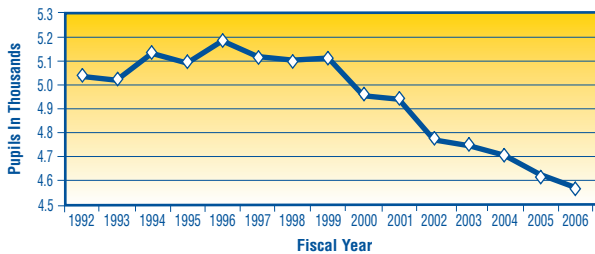
Total Route Miles



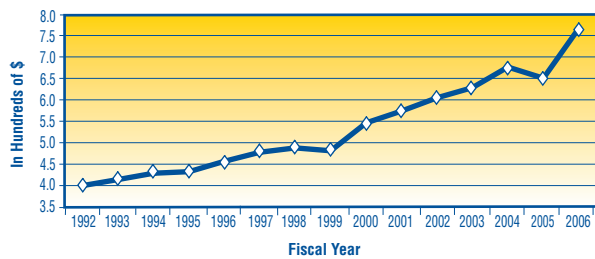
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$397.44	\$1,997,545	5,026	975,921
2006	\$768.82	\$3,509,651	4,565	1,072,972

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

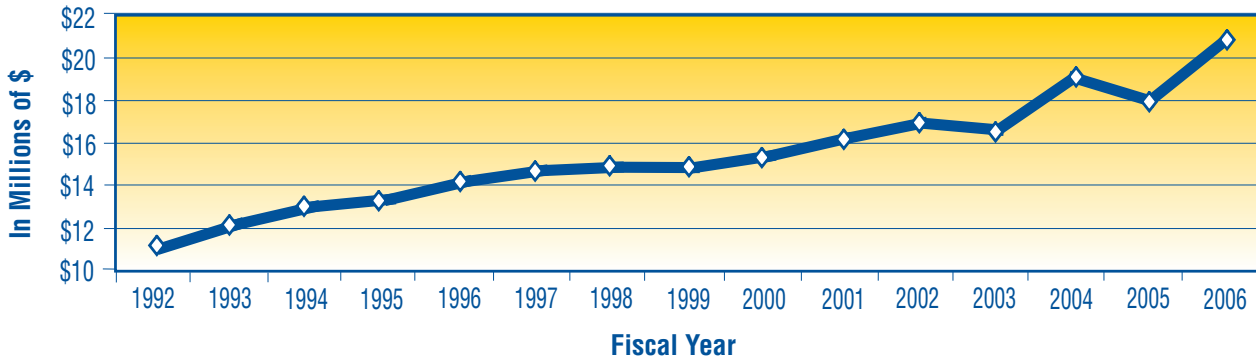




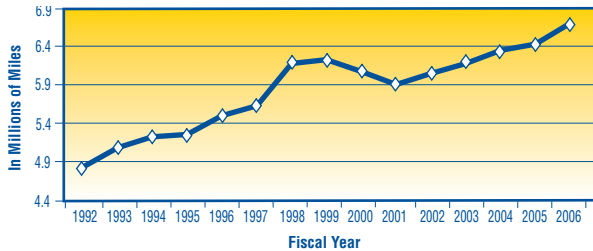
Harford County

Total miles traveled and the number of pupils transported each rose by about 1/3. Total miles increased 1.9 million miles, and the county transported 8,484 more students in 2006 than in 1992. Expenditures rose \$9.6 million, an 89% increase over the same 15-year period, and the cost per student increased about \$175 from \$395 in 1992 to \$570 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



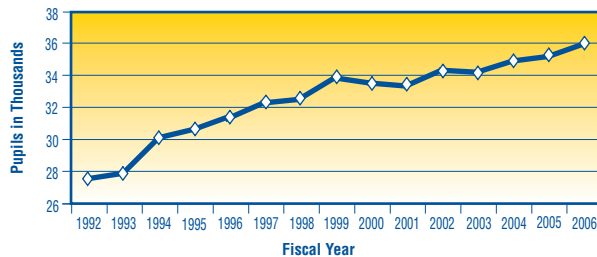
Total Route Miles



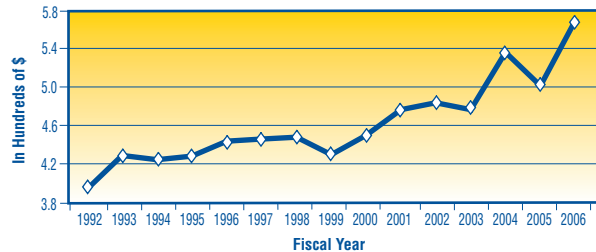
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$394.97	\$10,826,642	27,411	4,851,361
2006	\$570.16	\$20,465,756	35,895	6,738,632

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

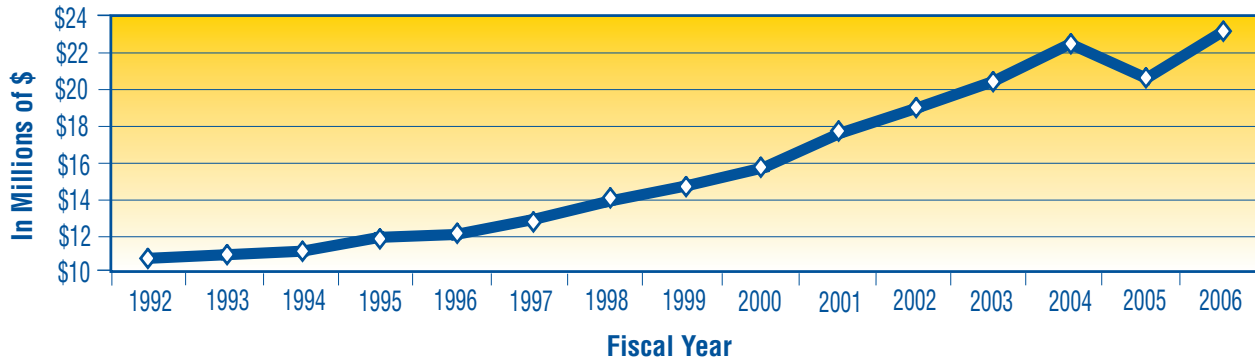




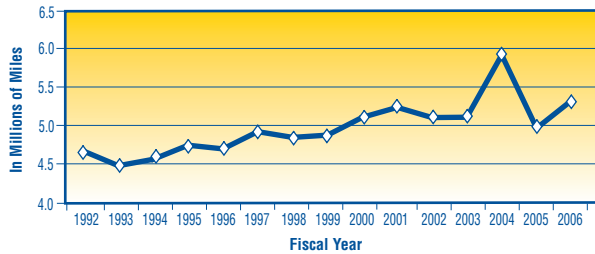
Howard County

Howard County experienced the greatest percentage of increase in the state of both the number of students it transported and its total expenditures. The bus system transported 16,855 more students in 2006 than in 1992, a 67% increase. Its total expenditures rose 131% from \$10.3 million to \$23.9 million, a \$13.6 million increase, and the total miles traveled increased 14% from 4.7 million to 5.3 million.

Total Expenditures



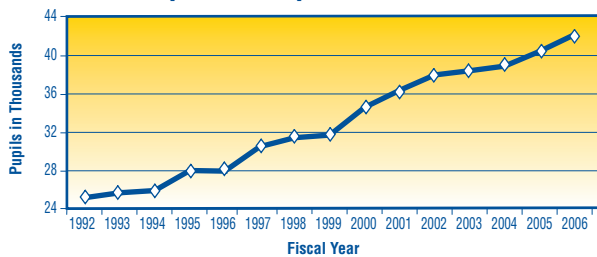
Total Route Miles



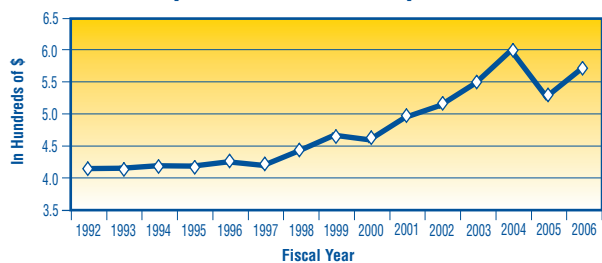
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$410.87	\$10,320,673	25,119	4,676,074
2006	\$570.07	\$23,927,935	41,974	5,335,125

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

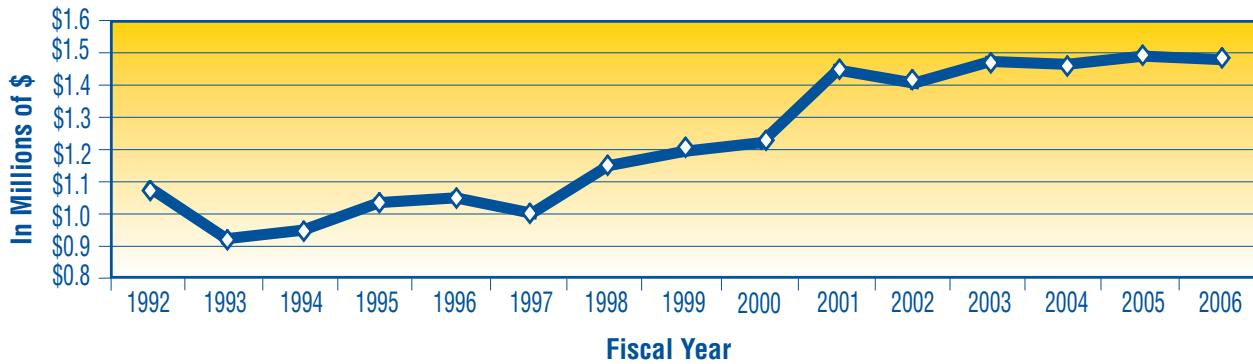




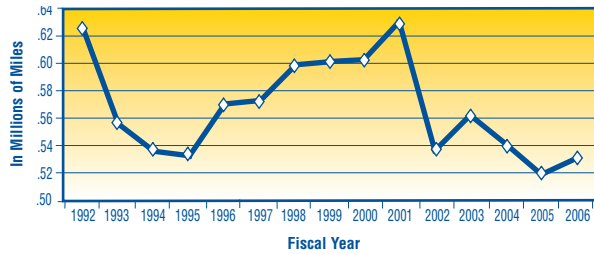
Kent County

Kent County saw a decrease in both the school bus miles traveled and the number of students transported. Buses traveled 99,977 miles less in 2006 than in 1992, a decrease of almost 16%. The number of students transported decreased by less than 1%, yet the county's total expenditures for school buses and its cost per student each went up about 38%.

Total Expenditures



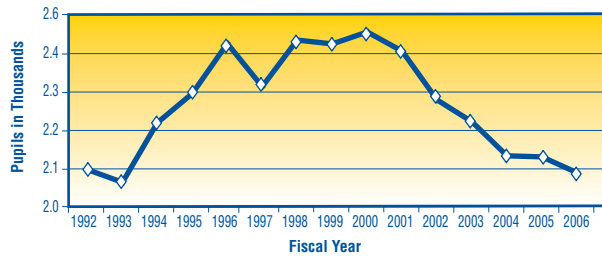
Total Route Miles



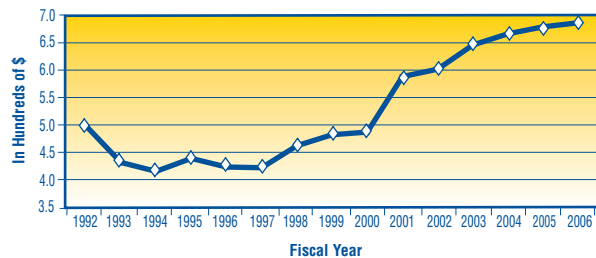
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$494.23	\$1,087,306	2,200	630,933
2006	\$685.30	\$1,502,181	2,192	531,016

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

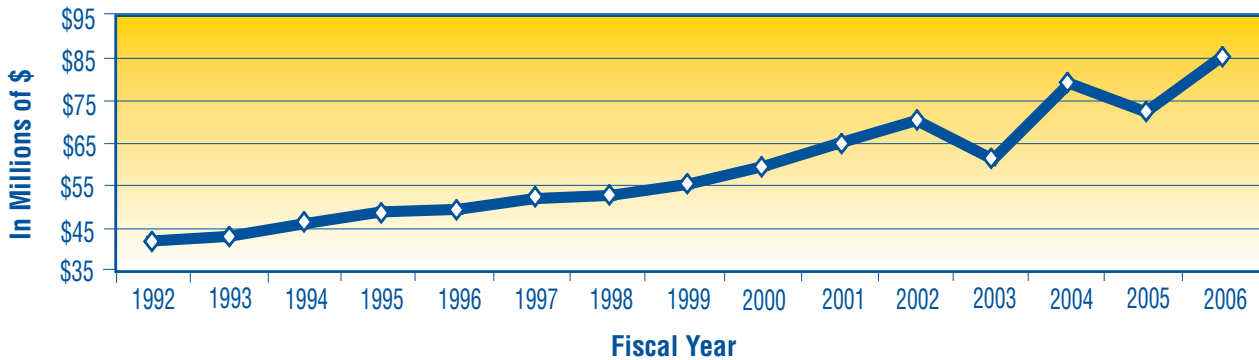




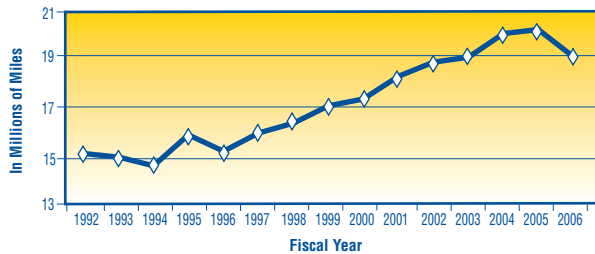
Montgomery County

Montgomery County has the second largest school bus budget in the state. Only Prince George's County is larger. In 15 years Montgomery County's expenditures more than doubled, rising almost \$44 million. There were also significant jumps in mileage and the number of students transported. The number of students increased by 27% and the number of route miles traveled increased by 25%, an increase of 3.7 million miles.

Total Expenditures



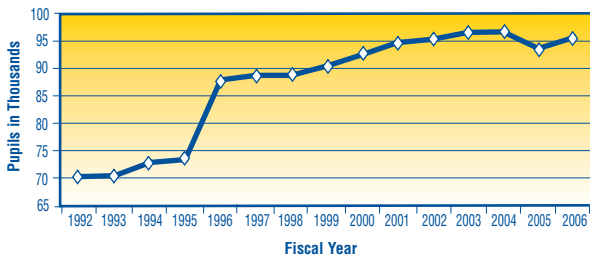
Total Route Miles



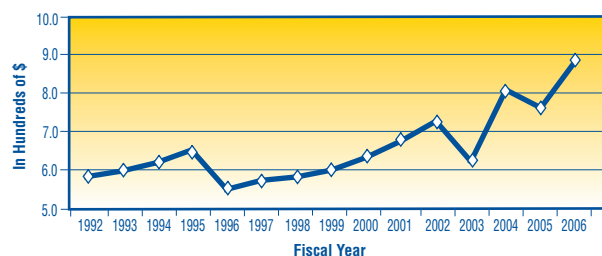
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$585.95	\$41,135,308	70,203	15,137,279
2006	\$887.71	\$85,097,617	95,862	18,883,058

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

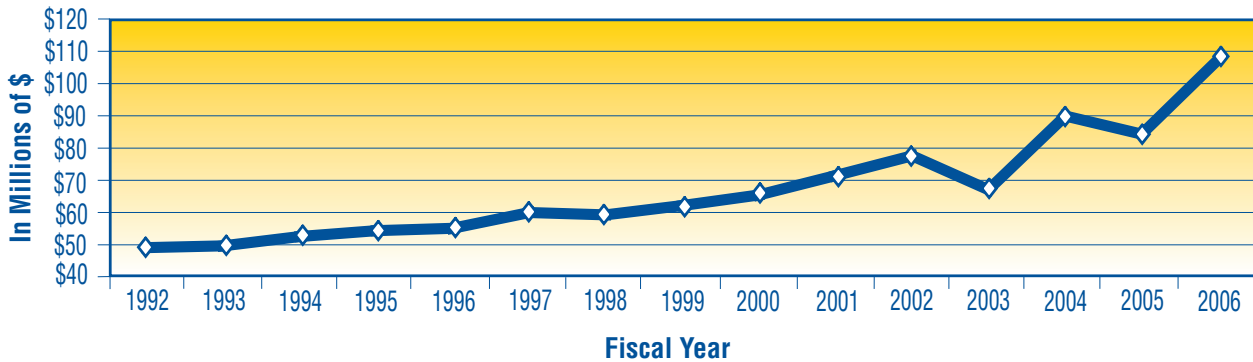




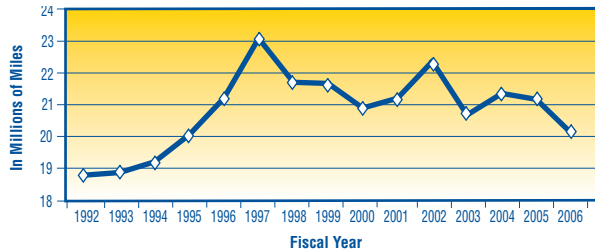
Prince George's County has the state's largest school bus budget, travels the most miles, but has only the second highest number of students transported. The county's school bus expenditures grew \$61.9 million in 15 years, a 125% increase. Prince George's County spent \$1,218 per pupil in 2006 which was 66% higher than the state average of \$734 spent annually per student. From 1992 to 2006, miles traveled increased only 7% and the number of pupils transported increased 17%.

Prince George's County

Total Expenditures



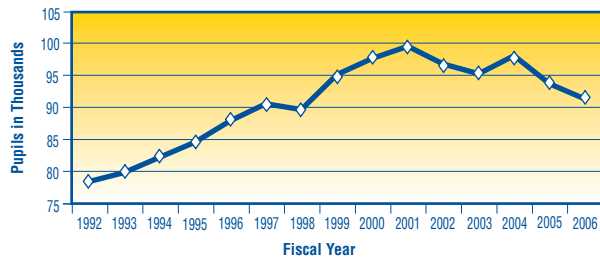
Total Route Miles



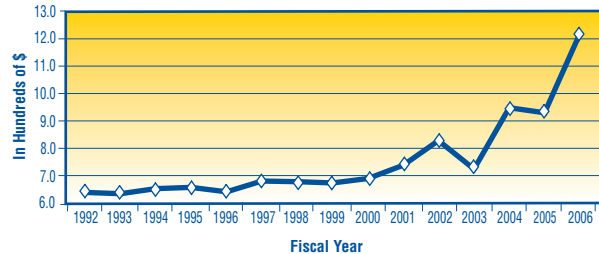
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$629.93	\$49,323,908	78,300	18,771,872
2006	\$1,217.88	\$111,212,115	91,316	20,102,624

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

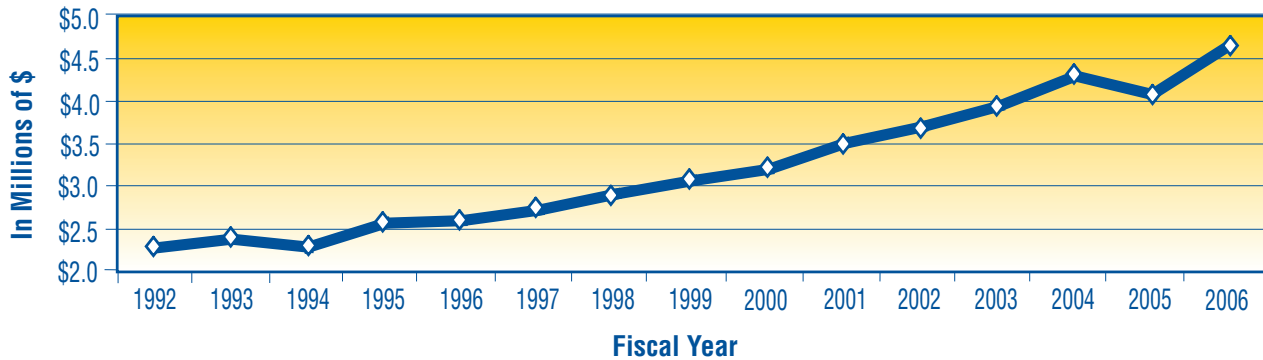




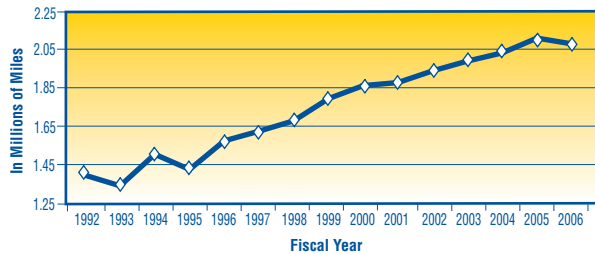
Queen Anne's County

In the past 15 years the number of students transported annually rose 41%, from 5,511 to 7,754. The miles school buses traveled grew to over 2 million by 2006. The county's school bus budget increased dramatically. Total expenditures more than doubled from \$2.3 million in 1992 to \$4.8 million in 2006. The cost per student increased by 46% during the 15-year period, from \$424 in 1992 to \$618 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



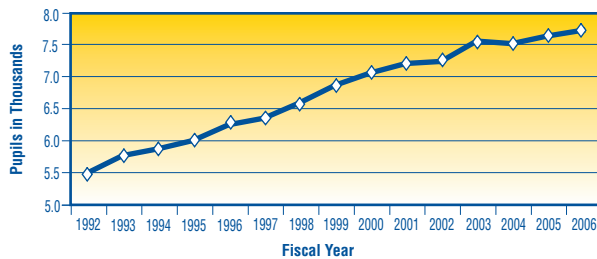
Total Route Miles



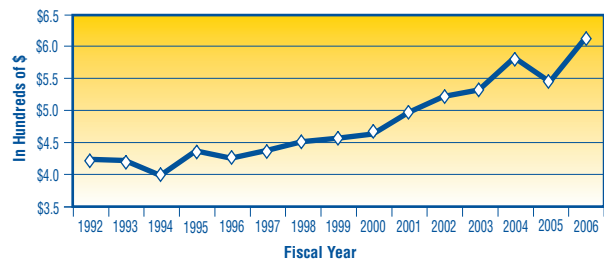
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$423.59	\$2,334,431	5,511	1,393,348
2006	\$618.33	\$4,794,530	7,754	2,088,784

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

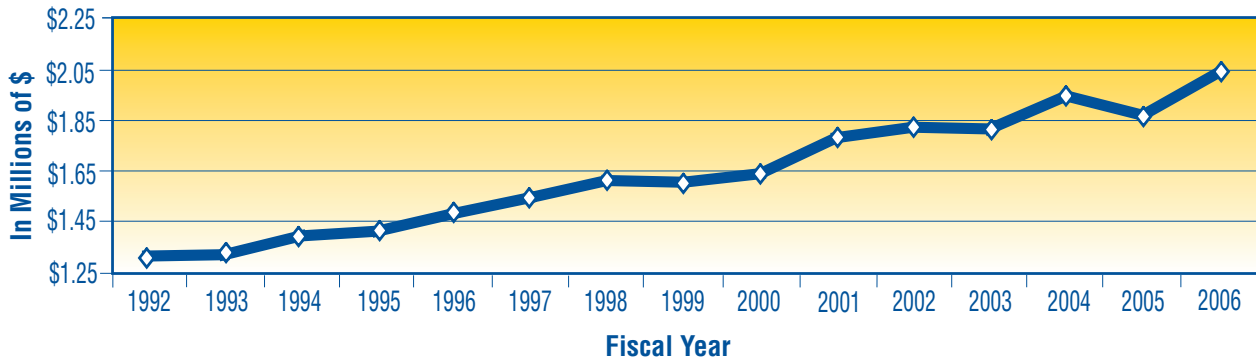




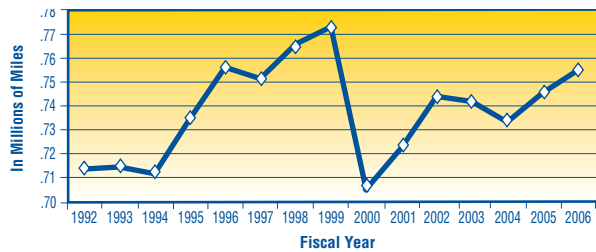
Somerset County

Somerset had the third smallest number of students transported by bus at 2,917 in 2006. Only 32 more students were transported by bus in 2006 than in 1992. But the number of route miles traveled increased 41,310 miles in fifteen years. The county's expenditures increased 54%, from \$1.3 million to \$2 million, and the cost per student rose \$241, a 52% increase, from \$461 in 1992 to \$702 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



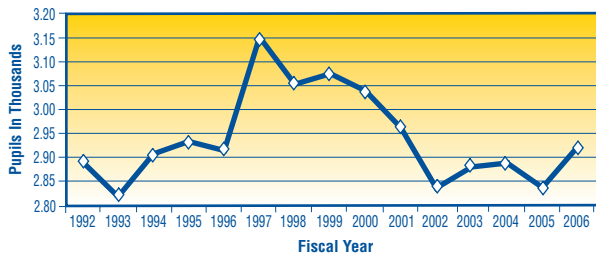
Total Route Miles



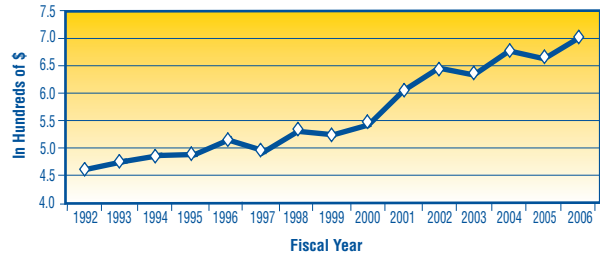
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$460.79	\$1,329,386	2,885	712,620
2006	\$702.10	\$2,048,024	2,917	753,930

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

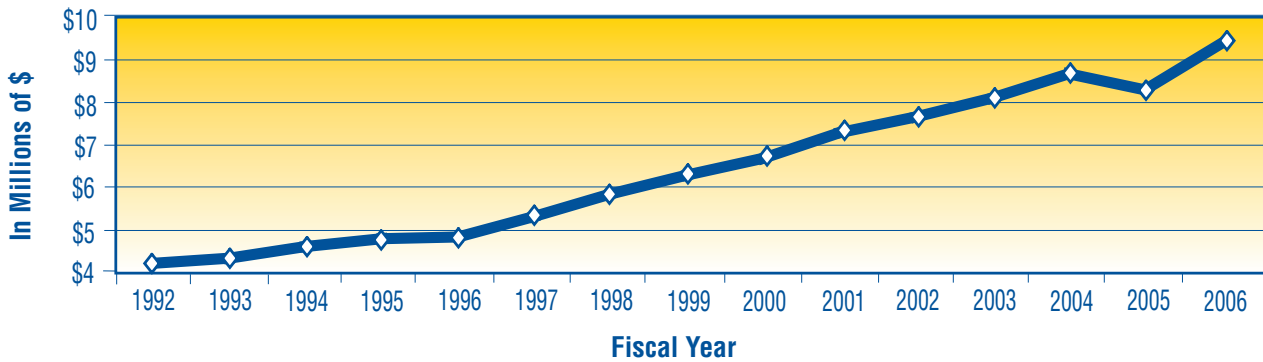




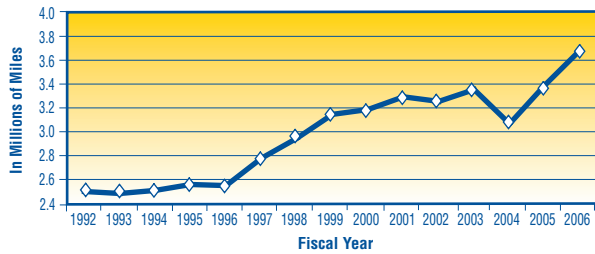
St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County experienced a total school bus cost increase of 128%, from \$4.2 million to \$9.6 million. This was the second highest in the state. While the number of students riding the bus increased by 33%, miles traveled by these buses grew by 46%.

Total Expenditures



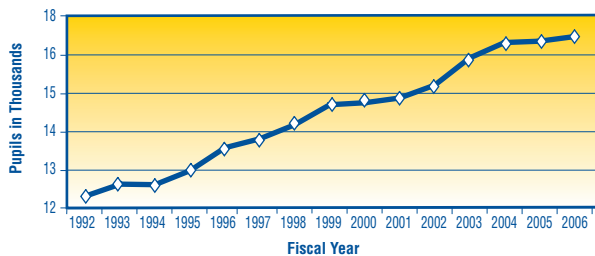
Total Route Miles



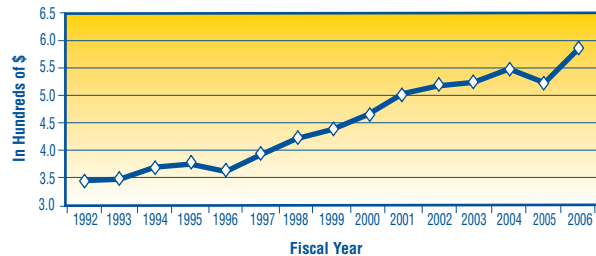
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$341.43	\$4,201,677	12,306	2,525,306
2006	\$585.29	\$9,594,648	16,393	3,696,481

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

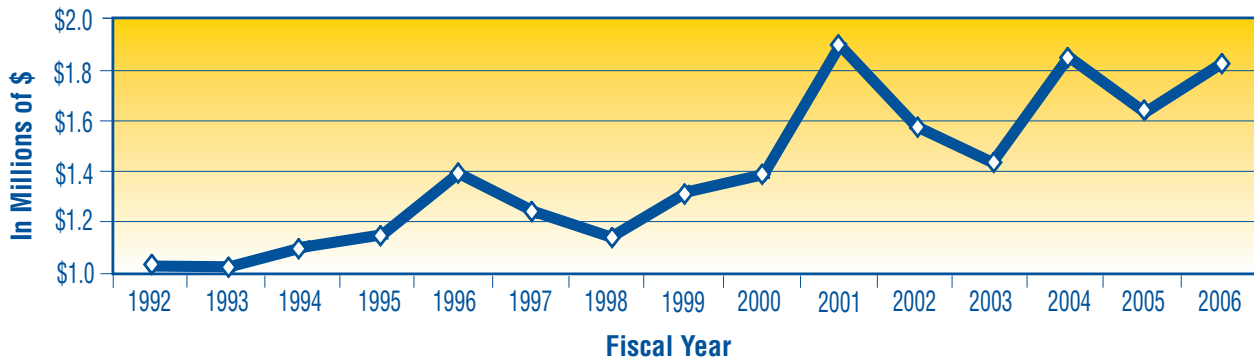




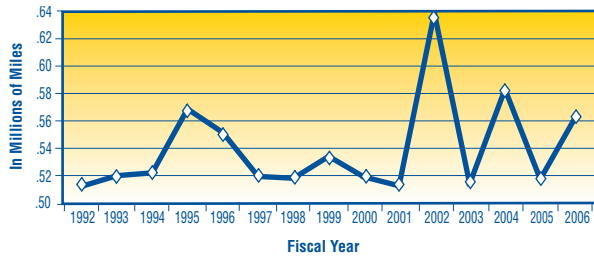
Talbot County

Talbot County experienced an 82% increase in total expenditures. Its school bus budget reached \$1.8 million in 2006, more than an \$800,000 increase since 1992. The number of students transported decreased 16%, yet during this same time the number of miles traveled by buses increased 11%. The annual cost per student rose 117%, from \$311 in 1992 to \$675 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



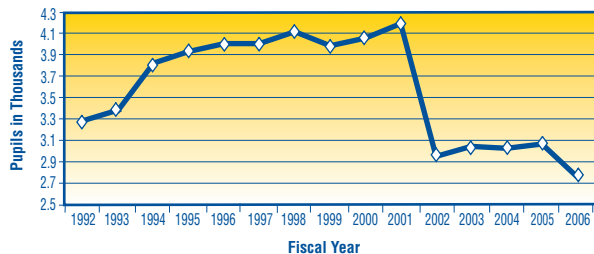
Total Route Miles



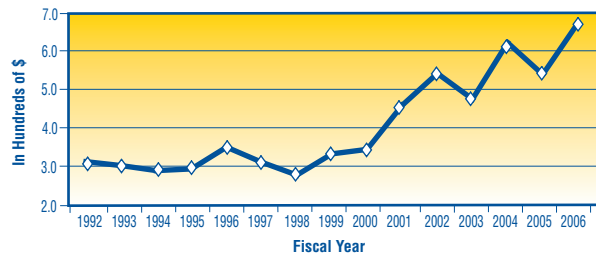
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$311.36	\$1,016,579	3,265	510,948
2006	\$675.86	\$1,849,156	2,736	565,362

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

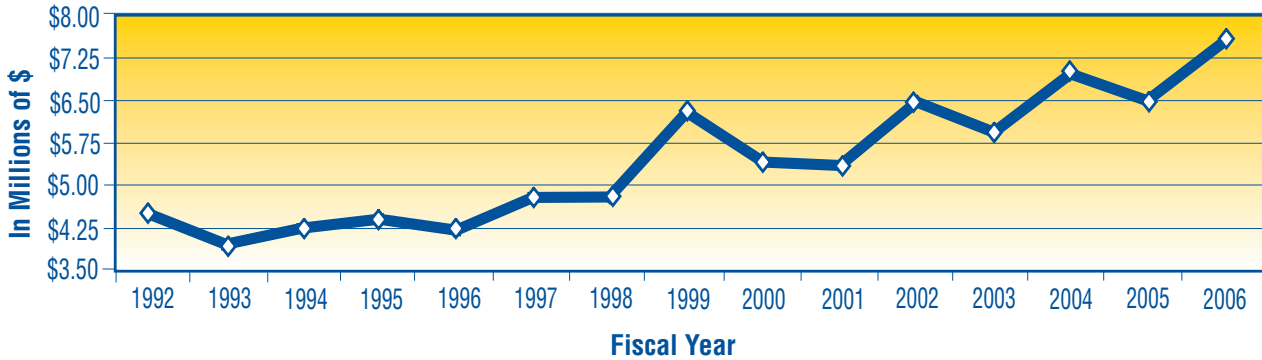




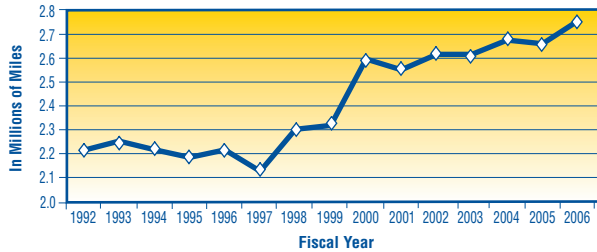
Washington County

Washington County witnessed a \$3.1 million increase to its total school bus expenditures. The number of pupils transported annually rose 18% and the amount of miles traveled increased by over half a million miles or 24%. The cost per student rose \$126, from \$302 in 1992 to \$428 in 2006.

Total Expenditures



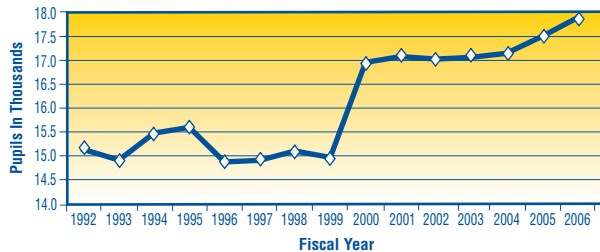
Total Route Miles



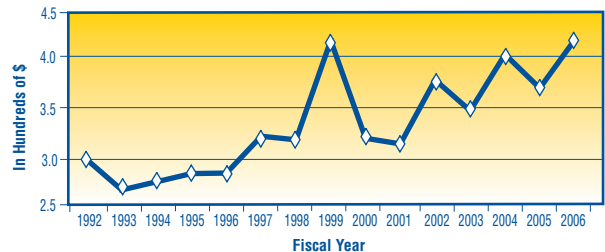
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$302.16	\$4,535,063	15,009	2,210,118
2006	\$428.39	\$7,606,467	17,756	2,745,132

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

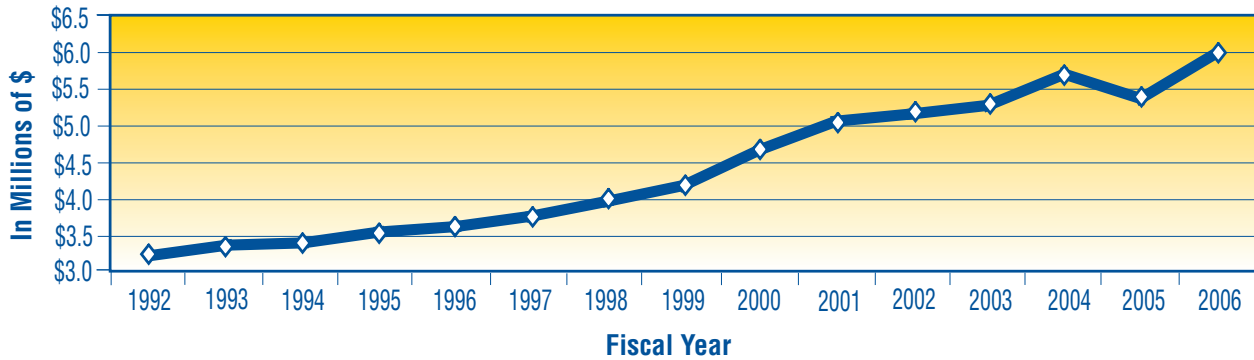




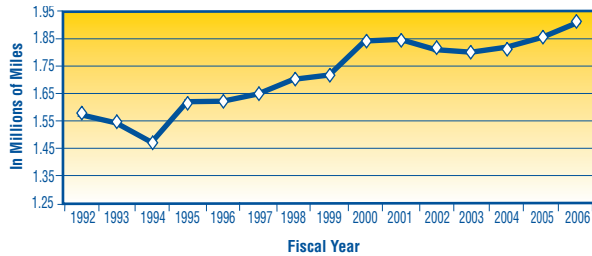
Wicomico County

Although this county saw a decrease in the number of students transported and only a moderate increase in the number of route miles, the total expenditures increased 86% from \$3.2 million in 1992 to \$6 million in 2006. The cost per student also rose heavily from \$300 in 1992 to \$567 per student in 2006, an 89% increase.

Total Expenditures



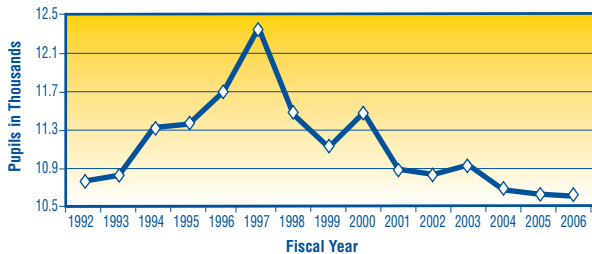
Total Route Miles



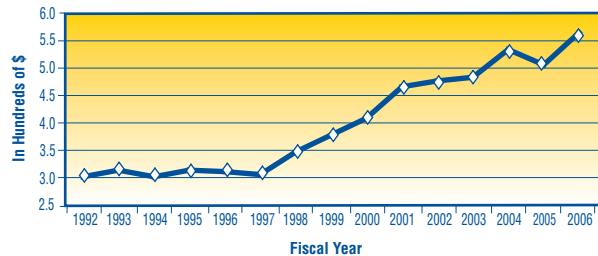
Overall Trend

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$300.51	\$3,233,189	10,759	1,566,707
2006	\$567.89	\$6,019,622	10,600	1,926,540

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

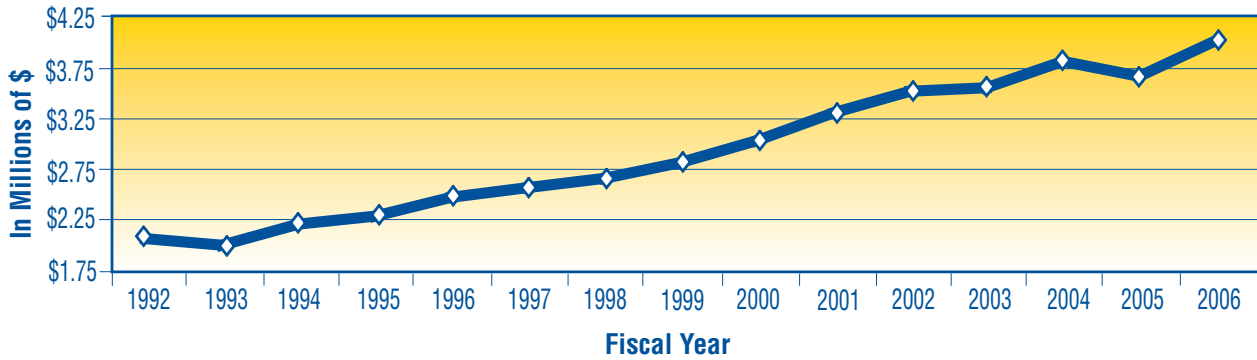




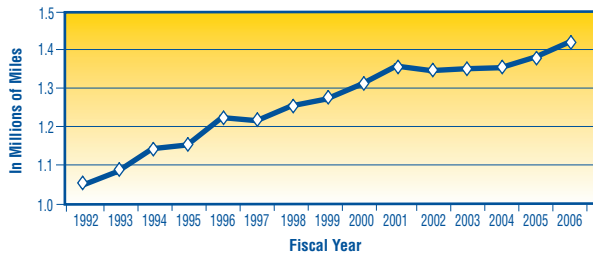
Worcester County

The total expenditures for this county's school bus budget almost doubled from 1992 to 2006. Expenditures increased from \$2 million in 1992 to nearly \$4 million in 2006. The number of students transported each year increased by 18% over the 15 year period, and the number of route miles traveled rose 373,830 over the same period, a 36% increase. The cost per student jumped \$257, up from \$386 in 1992 to \$643 in 2006, an increase of 67%.

Total Expenditures



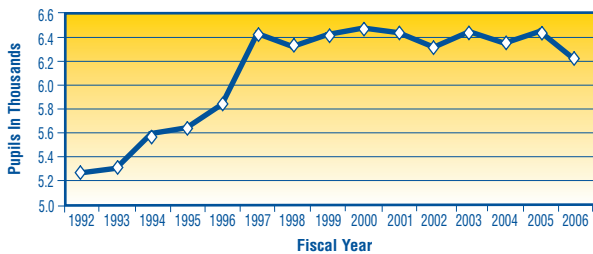
Total Route Miles



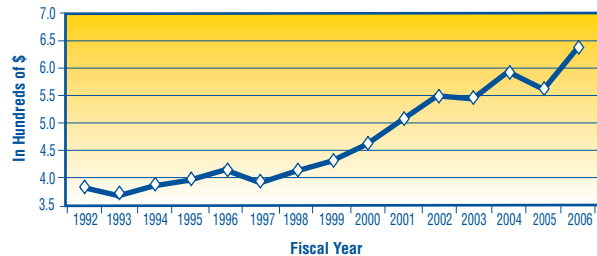
Overall Trend

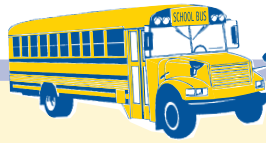
Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$386.29	\$2,033,446	5,264	1,053,894
2006	\$643.68	\$3,998,537	6,212	1,427,724

Total Pupils Transported



Total Expenditures Per Pupil

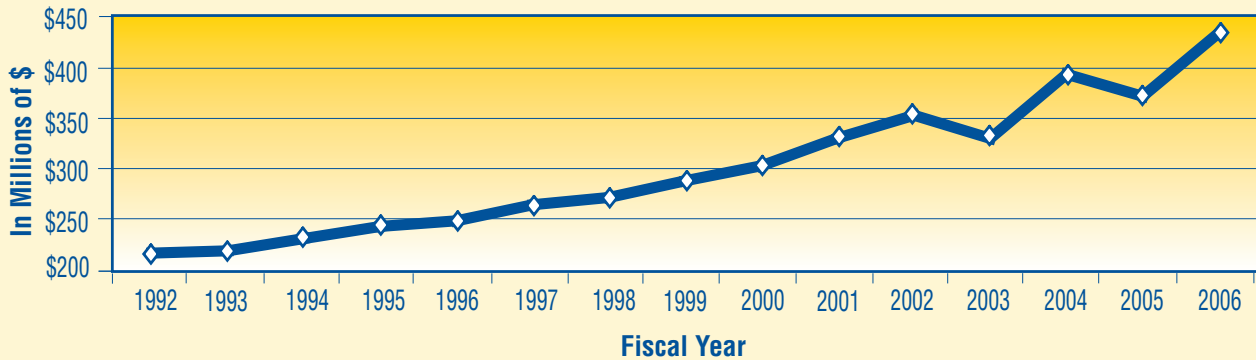




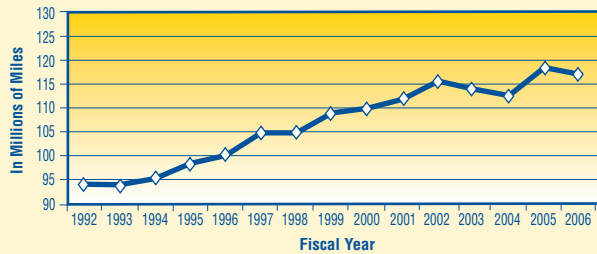
Over fifteen years Maryland saw a tremendous increase in its school bus budget and miles traveled. The total route miles traveled increased 25%. The number of pupils transported rose 28%, and the average expenditures per pupil in the state increased from \$459 to \$734. The total cost to bus students in Maryland more than doubled by increasing 104% from \$214.8 million in 1992 to \$437.8 million in 2006.

State Overview

Total State Expenditures



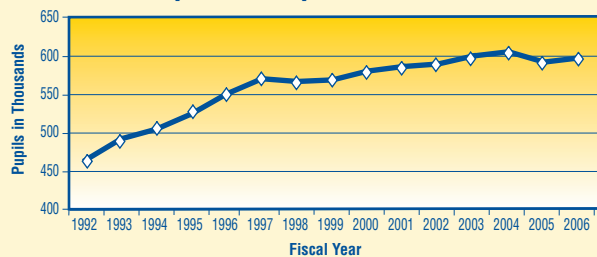
Total Route Miles: All Counties



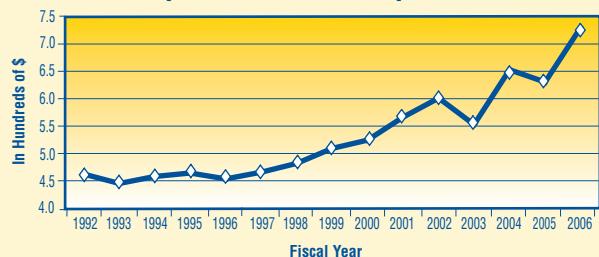
Overall Trend in State Totals

Fiscal Year	Expenditures Per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupils Transported	Total Route Miles
1992	\$462.60	\$214,817,603	464,375	93,861,680
2006	\$733.91	\$437,781,016	596,503	117,194,801

Total Pupils Transported: All Counties



Total Expenditures Per Pupil: All Counties





1000 Friends of Maryland
1209 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
tel: 410.385.2910
www.friendsofmd.org