

THE POLITICS OF EDUCATION

Chapter 16

Goals in Educational Policy

- Educating “Citizens” – vital to a democracy
- Advancing Social Goals
 - Patriotism
 - Citizenship
 - Recreation
- Strengthening the Economy

Educational Performance Measurement

- Input v. Output measures
 - Educational Attainment
 - number of years of schooling
 - Graduation rate
 - Dropout Rate-declining over time, although still higher for minorities
 - Depends on how it is measured – can range from 3-26%
 - SAT Scores-declined dramatically during the 1960s and 1970s, but increasing since 1982

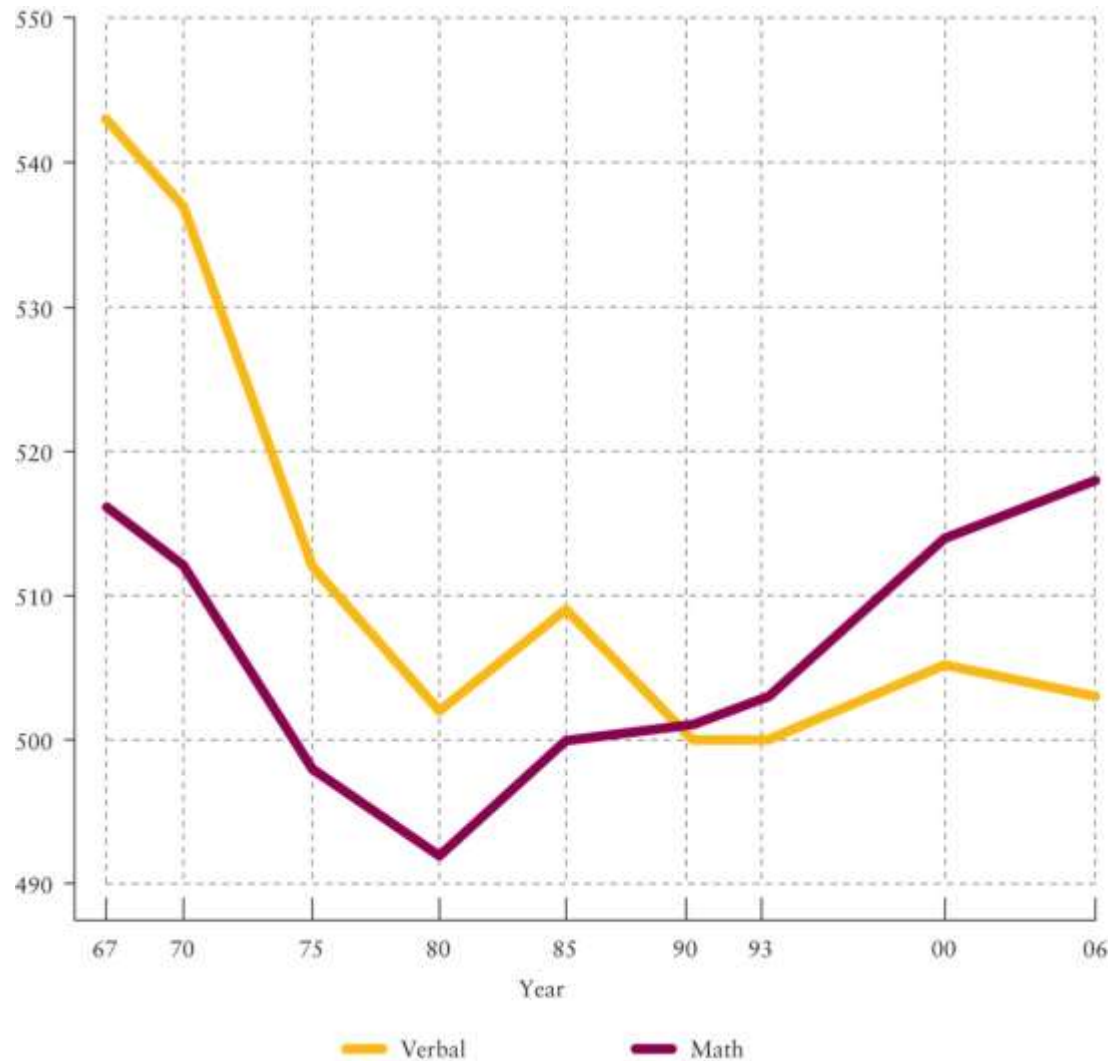
Sources of Public Education Funding

TABLE 14-1 Sources of Funds for Public Education in the United States

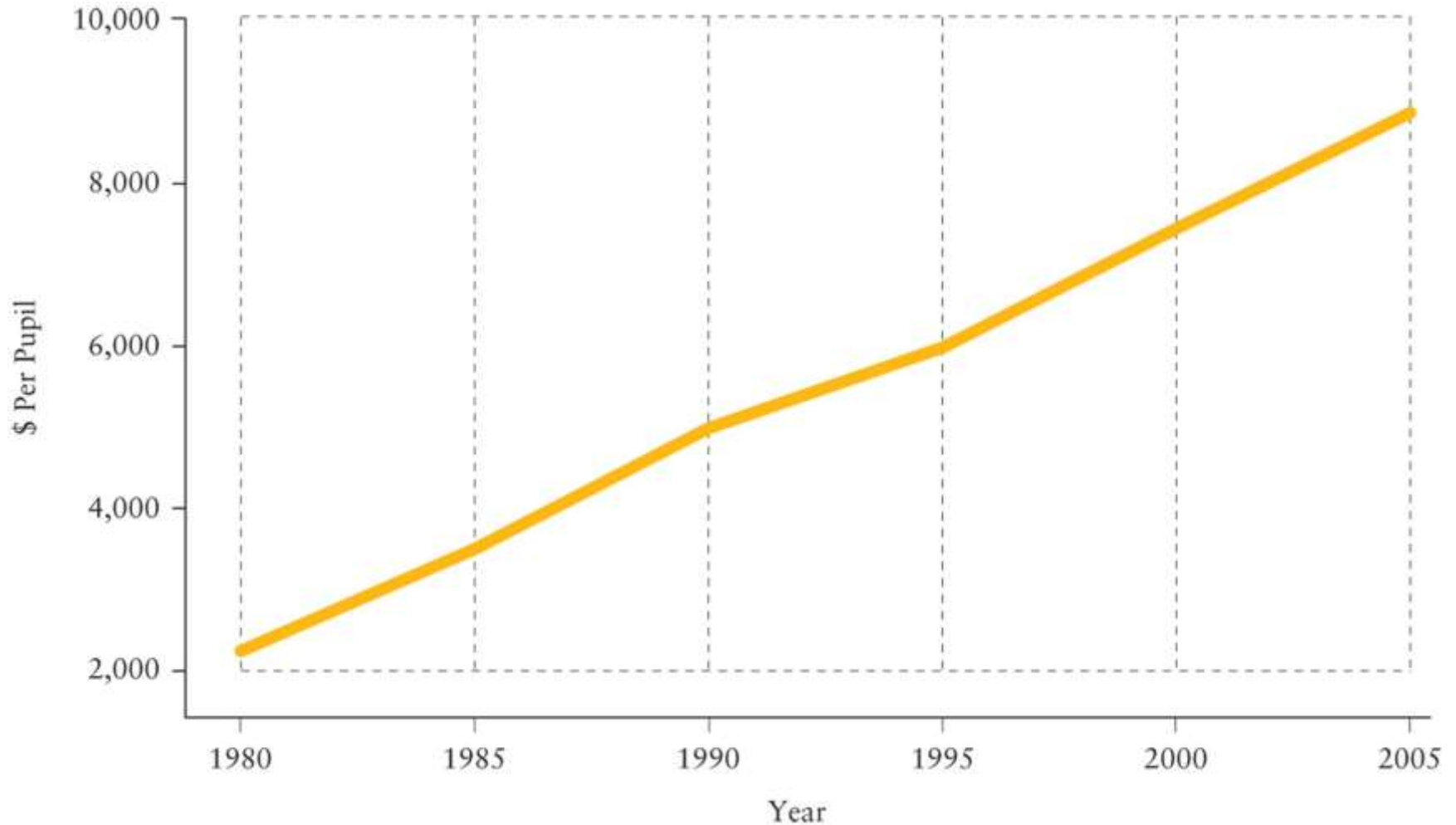
	Percentage of Public Educational Revenues by Source					
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Federal	9.2	6.7	6.3	6.9	7.1	8.6
State	49.1	49.0	48.3	47.6	49.8	48.0
Local	41.7	44.3	45.4	45.4	43.1	43.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 2006, p. 164.

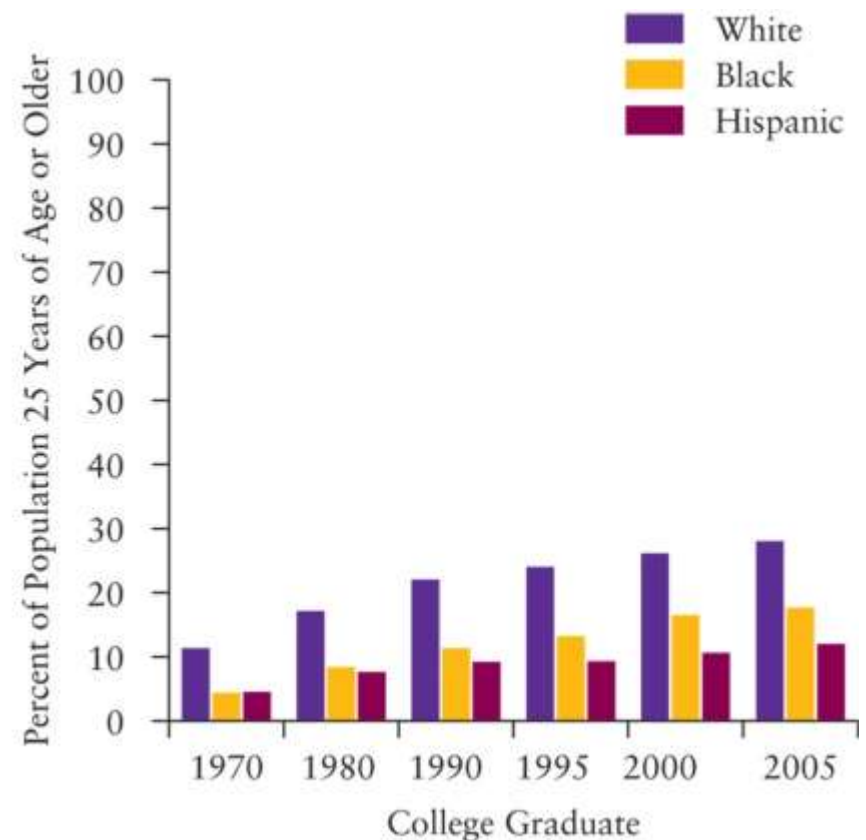
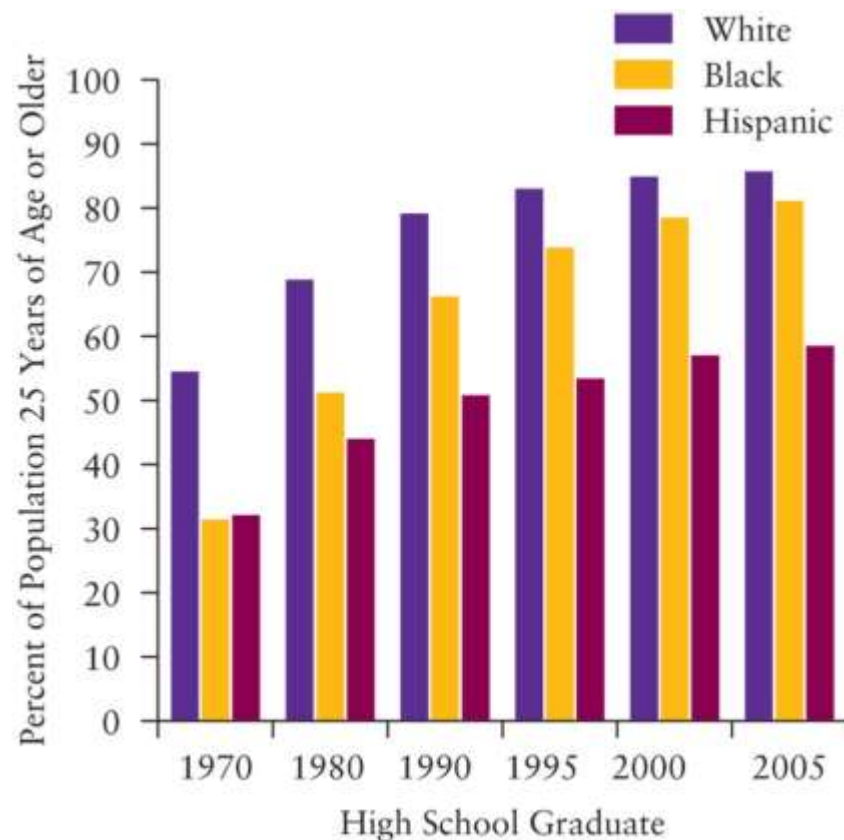
SAT Score Trends



Secondary Education Expenditures Per Pupil



Education Attainment by Race



Educational Reform

- Educational spending
- School-based management
- Magnet schools
- Charter schools
- School vouchers
- Federal assistance: Title 1 and Head Start
- No Child Left Behind
- Obama's Education Agenda
- Common Core

Education and the First Amendment

- The Establishment Clause: prohibits the government from aiding religious education or conducting religious ceremonies in public schools
- The Free Exercise Clause: prohibits states from closing religious schools or forcing all students to attend public schools

Jefferson's Wall of Separation

- Thomas Jefferson spoke of a wall of separation between church and state
- Many court cases have interpreted the Constitution in this area, including:
 - School prayer and moments of silence
 - Placing of the Ten Commandments
 - Teaching of evolution
 - Use of school vouchers

The Lemon Test

- Aid to church-related schools is guided by Supreme Court rulings, such as *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, in 1971
- The Lemon Test says aid could not be used to subsidize religious instruction and set the following three standards:
 - The aid had to be secular (nonreligious) in aim
 - The aid could not have the primary effect of advancing or inhibiting religion
 - The government must avoid an excessive government entanglement with religion

Governing Local Schools

- School Boards: elected legislative bodies which set policy
- School Superintendents: appointed position which manages the day-to-day operations of the district
- State funding

Higher Education

- Public universities: quality and affordability
- Private institutions: reputation and importance to local economies
- Community colleges: importance to business community for technical training
- University governance: boards of trustees or boards of regents
- Faculty: influence over institutions
- Unions: influence over public institutions
- State Legislatures: control the purse strings