

## Appendix: State Supreme Courts and School Finance

**B**elow 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)