

## Mill Levy History: School Finance 1994-95 to 2005-06

There has been a heightened discussion regarding the school district mill levies and the current variances. The Colorado School Finance Project, (CSFP) has put together some information that we hope you will find helpful. This will give you district specific as well as a statewide perspective.

The current School Finance Act was established in 1994. One of the Act's primary goals was to address the issue of *equity* in funding. Two desired outcomes were:

1. Local districts and the state each contribute 50%.
2. Each district would be between 38 and 40 mills.

1994-95:

1. The local contribution was at about 60% and the state at 40%.
2. The average mill for the state was at 37.395.
3. The range of mills was from 6.650 to 52.443.

2005-06:

1. The local contribution is about 40% and the state at 60%.
2. The average mill for the state is at 22.671.
3. The range of mills is from 1.957 to 38.370.

What is the financial impact?

1. All mills have dropped.
2. The State share has grown rapidly, though local districts have not seen the same increase in revenue.
3. The variances in mills have created large inequities in tax effort.
4. The goals of the 1994 School Finance Act were not achieved.