

**A GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY PUBLIC EDUCATION FINANCE;
1968-69, 1978-79 AND 1988-89**

An Abstract of a Thesis
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis was to determine what differences in funding existed among Illinois school districts, over a period of two decades. Per pupil mean values computed from a sample of active districts in 1988, were used to determine if there were increasing rural-urban inequities over time. Also, mean values were used to find out if there were greater inequities in the elementary and secondary school districts, as opposed to the unit districts.

Significant inequities were found among the school districts in Illinois over time, but they were not strictly rural-urban ones. Over time, there was greater inequity among the five county types in the elementary and secondary districts. However, the unit districts with their relatively small inequities among the county types, had the most difficult time in generating revenue for its school districts.

District assessed valuation per pupil had the most significant influence on how much total revenue per pupil each district received. State aid was found to be insufficient over time, to make up the differences that existed among the total revenues per pupil of each county type.