

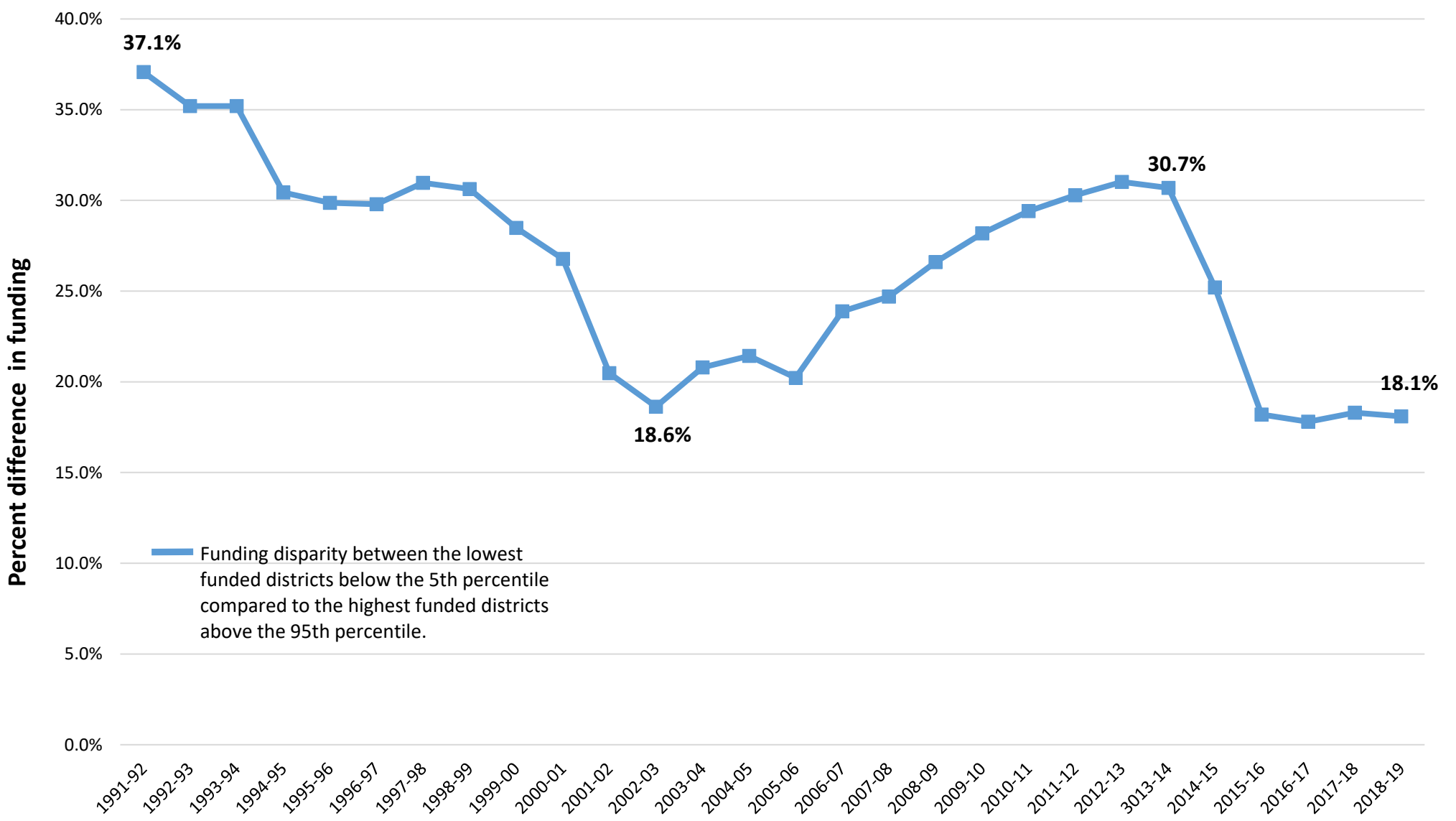


General Education Revenue Disparity Between the Lowest and Highest Funded Schools Districts

Estimated General Education Revenue Gap per Pupil

(Basic Revenue, Referendum Revenue, Local Optional Revenue and Equity Revenue)

"... it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools." Minnesota State Constitution Article X111, Section 1



The disparities in educational opportunities for students in different school districts are significant. In 2005, the legislature raised the maximum allowed referendum cap from 18% to 26% of the basic formula. That policy change set off rapid growth in the funding disparity between districts that are able to pass significant referendums due to high property wealth and those district that cannot. More recent legislation gives school boards the authority to access up to \$724 per pupil in local levy dollars to support the basic education programs in their schools, which reduced the funding disparity. However, the gap in funding remains excessive and sets up a public school system of "haves" and "have nots" based merely on where students live.