

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

This issue, as well as the previous issue, of *Educational Considerations* is devoted to the concept of financing public elementary and secondary education in the United States. Twice each decade, the editors attempt to offer a broad, yet state specific, overview regarding the financing of schools for state and local policy makers. In this manner, policy makers and researchers may discover what other states are accomplishing regarding the financing of public education. This issue, as well as the previous issue, presents data and analysis of selected states. As such, we are well aware that generalities are difficult to accurately structure regarding what is essentially a state and local function. Nonetheless, we believe that the current issue once again presents some of the leading commentators regarding the activities of various state legislatures.

The overall trends reflect, without a doubt, the reality that the reform movement in public education has finally discovered that fiscal resources must follow in order to make for meaningful and significant change. Another trend is a growing awareness and hostility toward the property tax. This, as discussed earlier, will continue to have a significant impact concerning the financing of public education in every state. Finally, one is struck by the differences, and yet the similarities, of the issues that are unique to each state. As the editors have written for many years, the financing of public elementary and secondary education continues to be one of the most important public policy topics that every state legislature faces virtually every year.

R. Craig Wood, B.O. Smith Research Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, University of Florida.

David C. Thompson, Chair and Professor, Department of Educational Administration and Leadership, Kansas State University.