

ANALYSIS OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND FOR THE 2009-11 AND 2011-13 BIENNIUMS



ASSETS, DISTRIBUTIONS, AND INVESTMENT RETURNS FOR THE COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND

The following is a summary of actual and estimated assets, distributions, and investment returns for the common schools trust fund for the 1997-99 through 2011-13 bienniums:

Biennium	Fiscal Year	Beginning Assets (Excluding Land and Minerals Values)	Distributions	Interest, Dividends, and Surface and Mineral Rental Income (Net of Expenses)	Total Average Investment Return (Interest Income and Capital Gains)
1997-99	1998	\$400,689,879	\$23,200,000	\$24,965,697	13.57%
	1999	\$444,823,559	\$23,200,000	\$24,644,625	7.50%
1999-2001	2000	\$467,059,293	\$23,775,000	\$25,650,676	11.05%
	2001	\$521,509,978	\$23,775,000	\$27,382,227	2.03%
2001-03	2002	\$533,360,593	\$28,896,500	\$26,548,262	(1.34%)
	2003	\$522,905,814	\$28,896,500	\$26,620,380	4.57%
2003-05	2004	\$547,047,877	\$30,000,000	\$24,849,254	12.60%
	2005	\$614,738,548	\$30,000,000	\$26,137,010	8.58%
2005-07	2006	\$686,273,875	\$31,100,000	\$27,118,113	7.51%
	2007	\$761,901,287	\$31,100,000	\$31,378,257	12.82%
2007-09	2008	\$887,092,909	\$33,400,000	\$36,497,403	(4.22%)
	2009	\$908,928,685	\$33,400,000	\$36,184,299	(13.75%)
2009-11	2010	\$846,314,086	\$38,589,000	\$37,674,582	14.48%
	2011	\$1,221,501,801 ¹	\$38,589,000	\$46,044,054	17.99%
2011-13	2012	\$1,622,412,984 ²	\$46,257,000	³	³
	2013	³	\$46,257,000	³	³

¹The increase in assets during fiscal year 2010 included income from mineral royalties and lease bonuses of \$249 million and oil extraction tax allocations of \$28 million.

²The increase in assets during fiscal year 2011 included income from mineral royalties and lease bonuses of \$148.9 million, oil extraction tax allocations of \$49.3 million, and \$190.9 million of investment income and capital gains.

³Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution of North Dakota was amended in November 2006 through voter approval of measure No. 1 (House Concurrent Resolution No. 3037 (2005)). The measure changed the way distributions from the common schools trust fund and other permanent educational trust funds are determined. The amendment became effective July 1, 2009, and distributions from the common schools trust fund are now based on a percentage of the five-year average value of trust assets, excluding the value of lands and minerals. Therefore, the Board of University and School Lands does not project asset values, income, or investment return because it is no longer relevant to the calculation of distribution amounts.

MONEY DEPOSITED IN THE COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND

Select Constitutional Provisions

Article IX, Section 1

This section provides that the following money must be deposited in a permanent trust fund, known as the common schools trust fund, and used to support the common schools of the state:

- All proceeds relating to public lands granted to the state by the federal government for the support of the common schools.
- All proceeds relating to property acquired by the state through escheat (property reverting to the state in the absence of legal heirs).
- All gifts, donations, and other property acquired by the state for the support of the common schools.
- The proceeds of all bonuses relating to the leasing of coal, gas, oil, or other mineral interests relating to common schools lands.

This section was included in the original Constitution of North Dakota enacted in 1889. In 1982 the section was amended to provide that bonuses relating to the leasing of coal, gas, oil, or other mineral interests relating to common schools lands were to be deposited in the common schools trust fund. In 2006 measure No. 1 approved by voters removed the reference to bonuses related to leasing and provided that revenues earned by a perpetual trust fund must be deposited in the fund.

Article IX, Section 5

This section provides that in all sales of common schools lands, the state must retain the mineral interests. Leases may be executed for the extraction and sale of the minerals.

This section was included in the original Constitution of North Dakota enacted in 1889. As originally enacted, the section prohibited the sale of common schools lands that were "coal lands" and did not address other minerals. In 1960 the section was amended to its current form which allows the sale of lands containing minerals but requires that the state retain the mineral interests. Minerals are defined to include oil, gas, coal, cement materials, sodium sulphate, sand and gravel, road material, building stone, chemical substances, metallic ores, uranium ores, and colloidal or other clays.

Article X, Section 24

This section provides that 10 percent of oil extraction tax revenue must be deposited in the common schools trust fund.

This section was enacted in 1994 through voter approval of measure No. 1 (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4011 (1993)). The section has not been changed since enactment.

Select North Dakota Century Code Provisions

Section 47-30.1-23

This section provides that all funds received by the state under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, except amounts deducted for the payment of claims and certain administrative costs, must be deposited in the common schools trust fund.

Section 54-27-25

This section, which was enacted by the Legislative Assembly in 1999, creates a tobacco settlement trust fund to be used to deposit tobacco settlement money received by the state. Forty-five percent of the tobacco settlement money received under subsection IX(c)(1) of the Master Settlement Agreement and deposited in the tobacco settlement trust fund must be transferred to the common schools trust fund and become a part of the principal of the fund.

To date, \$143,482,884 of tobacco settlement money received by the state has been transferred to the common schools trust fund. The following is a summary of transfers to the common schools trust fund from the tobacco settlement trust fund:

1999-2001	\$23,805,353 (actual)
2001-03	\$23,998,745 (actual)
2003-05	\$20,977,123 (actual)
2005-07	\$19,722,653 (actual)
2007-09	\$27,672,929 (actual)
2009-11	\$18,248,834 (actual)
2011-13	\$19,369,264 (estimate)
2013-17 (\$20,741,314 per biennium)	\$41,482,628 (estimate)
2017-25 (\$23,626,724 per biennium)	\$94,506,896 (estimate)

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND

Select Constitutional Provisions

Article IX, Section 1

This section provides that revenues earned by the perpetual trust fund must be deposited in the fund, the costs of administering the fund may be paid out of the fund, and the perpetual trust funds must be managed to preserve their purchasing power and to maintain stable distributions to fund beneficiaries.

Article IX, Section 2

This section provides that payments to the common schools of the state include:

- Biennial distributions from each educational trust fund must be 10 percent of the five-year average value of the trust assets, excluding the value of land and minerals. This section was amended in November 2006 through voter approval of measure No. 1 (House Concurrent Resolution No. 3037 (2005)). The measure changed the way distributions from the common schools trust fund and other permanent educational trust funds are determined. Previously, distributions were based on the amount of interest and income earned by each trust during a fiscal year. The amendment became effective July 1, 2009, and distributions from the common schools trust fund for the 2009-11 and 2011-13 bienniums are based on the distribution formula.
- All fines for violation of state laws. (This money is not added to the trust fund but is added to the distributions from the common schools trust fund and distributed to schools.)
- All other amounts provided by law.

This section was included in the original Constitution of North Dakota enacted in 1889. The original law contained the following two provisions that were removed through voter approval of measure No. 3 in June 1982:

- Payments to the common schools must be distributed in proportion to the number of school-age children in each district.
- Any portion of the interest or income of the common schools trust fund not distributed during a fiscal year must be added to the permanent balance of the trust fund.

Select North Dakota Century Code Provisions

Section 15-01-02

This section provides that the Board of University and School Lands has full control of:

- The selection, appraisal, rental, sale, disposal, and management of common schools lands.
- The investment of any funds derived from the sale of common schools lands.
- The proceeds of any other property required by law to be used for the support of the common schools.

INVESTMENT OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND

Section 15-03-04 provides that the Board of University and School Lands is to apply the prudent investor rule in investing the permanent funds under its control, including the common schools trust fund. The prudent investor rule means that in making investments, the board is to exercise the same judgment and care that an institutional investor of ordinary prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercises in the management of large investments entrusted to it.