



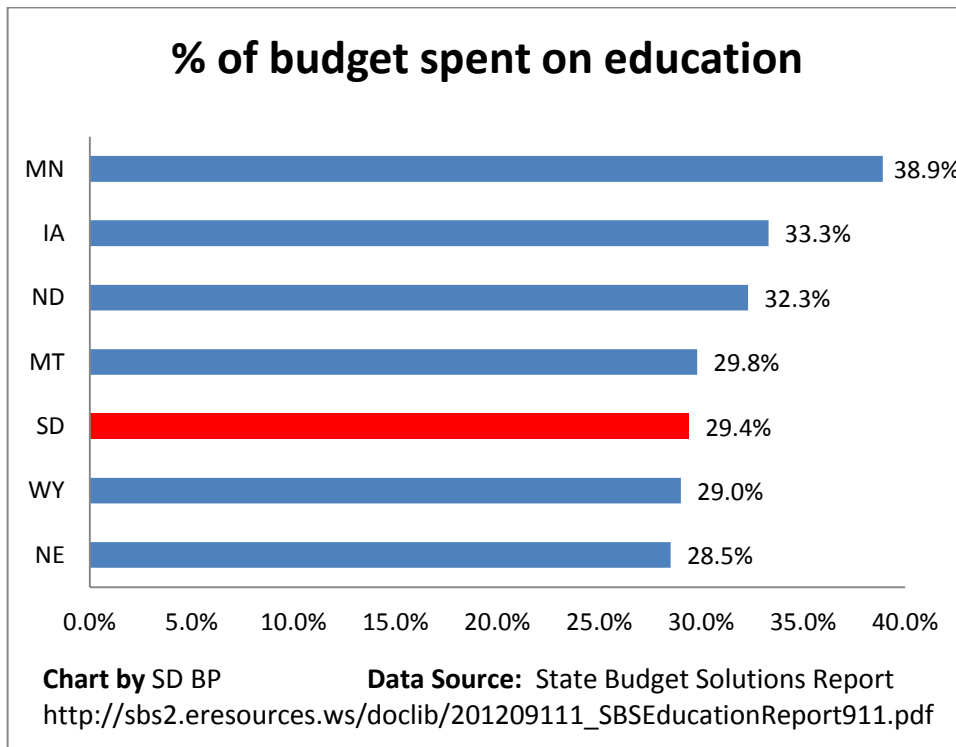
RESEARCH. EDUCATE.

DATE: 2-20-14
TO: Representative Lust
FROM: Joy Smolnisky, SD Budget & Policy Institute
RE: Fiscal analysis inquiry on 2-19-14 following testimony in State Affairs

State Budget Solutions analyzed the percentage of total spending that each state allocates towards education: “Education spending includes the funding that state and local governments generate, as well as additional federal contributions. A comparison of raw numbers does not accurately reflect how the state prioritizes education spending because the number of students, schools, teachers, and costs vary so widely across the nation. Percentages provide a more comparable figure and a more objective means of comparing the fifty states’ education investments.”¹

I’ve extrapolated out the data for SD and our neighboring states. The table below show several neighboring states (MN, IA, ND) dedicate considerably higher percentages of their budget to education (over 10% more than SD) and two (WY and NE) dedicate slightly less.

I hope you find this analysis helpful.



¹ http://sbs2.eresources.ws/doclib/201209111_SBSEducationReport911.pdf