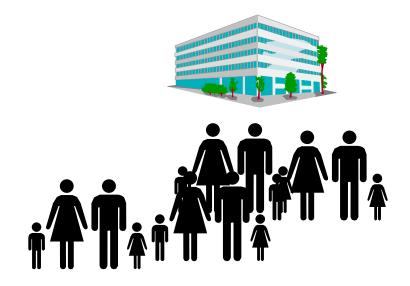
Visualizing the

Mississippi State Budget

Fiscal Year 2005

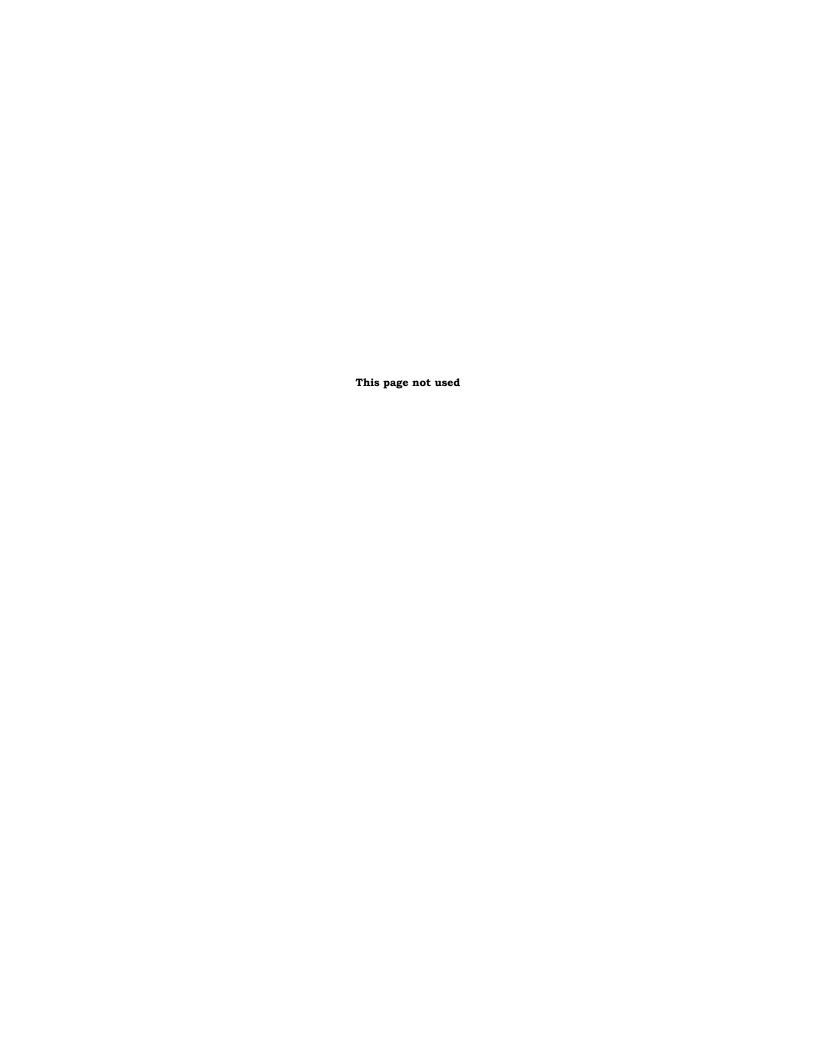
[Actually, 3 different ways to look at the budget...]



Identifying the sources of State revenue and How the State allocates priorities

[Apology to all:

We are still looking for a State Budget "Rosetta Stone" to help us interpret the difficult-to-understand *Budgetalk* and *Budgetdata*, which we will share with you just as soon as we find it and come to understand how to use it.]



The following data concerning the Mississippi State Budget was obtained from MISSISSIPPI, A FISCAL SUMMARY dated January, 2006, published by University Research Center, MS Institutes of Higher Learning

IMPORTANT FACTS:

The \$12.3 Billion includes \$3.5B in General Funds, and \$8.8B in Special Funds. Special Funds include \$5.4B in Federal Funds and \$3.8B in Special State Funds.

What is commonly referred to as "The General Fund" (the \$3.5B above) represents only about two-thirds of the "Gross General Fund". The other one-third (about \$2B) is diverted through general fund "diversions", with only about half (\$1B) appropriated and reflected as Special State Funds. The other \$1B in General Fund diversions is NOT reflected in the state budget or expenditures. The University Research center estimates (as of January, 2006) for the FY '07 are as follows:

Gross General Fund \$6,349,000,000
Less Diversions 2,159,000,000
Net General Fund \$4,190,000,000

None of the diversions are considered General Fund Appropriations. The largest are:

\$377M - Sales & Use Taxes to cities

\$324M - Education Enhancement Fund (k-12,CC, IHL) and

Public School Building Fund

\$383M - Income Tax Refund Accounts

\$202M - Motor Vehicle Ad valorem Tag Reduction

\$104M - Gaming taxes to Municipalities and Counties

\$484M - Petroleum Tax to Dept. of Transportation, Counties, and other misc.

\$109M - Auto Privilege Tax Fund

Note - Approximately 15% of diversions are appropriated as Special Funds for education (k-12, CC, IHL)

When day-to-day references are made to" The General Fund", and references to "Education's share", funds diverted are not included. Normally, it is said that all of Education receives over 60% of the General Fund, yet when Gross General Funds are considered, this share drops to about 44%, less than half.

Additionally, normal references to the state budget do not include "Special State Funds". These funds amount to about \$3.8B annually, and include about \$1B of the diversions. The remaining \$2.8B is generally self-generated sources of state revenues and includes licenses and permit fees, and in some cases Budget Contingency Funds.

THE BOTTOM LINE - Generally, we think of the State budget to be the General Fund Appropriations. Yet when Diversions (prior to appropriations) are considered, as well as Special State Funds (fees, etc.), the State Budget under control of the Legislature, becomes not \$4B but closer to \$8B- \$9B. Would we not be better served to place all state revenues (excluding Federal Funds) in the General Fund, and place all services under the same scrutiny of the appropriation process? Would this not give us a clearer picture of state revenues and a better understanding of where our resources go?

The Mississippi State Budget has three broad components: General Funds, Special State Funds, and Federal Funds. The Table below illustrates how much is spent in each Category from three separate perspectives: 1) when you combine all 3 Funds; 2) when you combine only Special State and General Funds; and 3) when you consider only General Funds.

The 4 pie charts on the following pages create a visual view of the three budget perspectives, illustrating the percentage portion that each category uses.

Please Note: the data in the 1^{st} pie chart came from a different state source than the data in the 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} , and 4^{th} pie charts, but they are substantially similar.

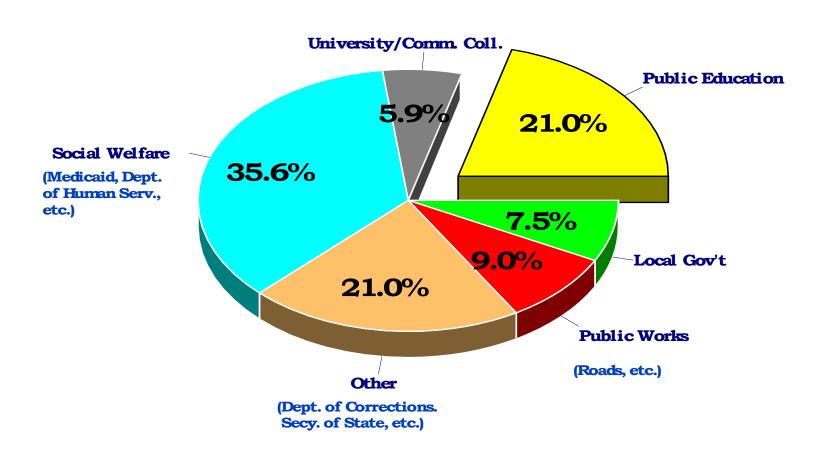
Category	Federal, Special	Special State	General Funds
	State & General	& General	
	Funds	Funds	
Public	2,832,206,139	2,273,373,959	1,858,225,647
Education			
Higher	1,737,157,715	1,632,605,206	542,784,060
Education			
Social Welfare	4,640,757,929	1,033,625,142	449,860,328
Special Fund	613,332,200	345,934,358	0
Agencies			
Transportation	921,959,321	463,959,321	0
Mental Health	511,451,875	478,556,124	189,942,422
Other	1,963,369,700	1,519,211,003	869,206,556
Total	13,220,234,879	7,747,265,113	3,910,019,013

Mississippi State Budget - Fiscal Year 2005

FISCAL YEAR 2005 EXPENDITURES

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$12,330,800,000 [includes General Funds, Special State

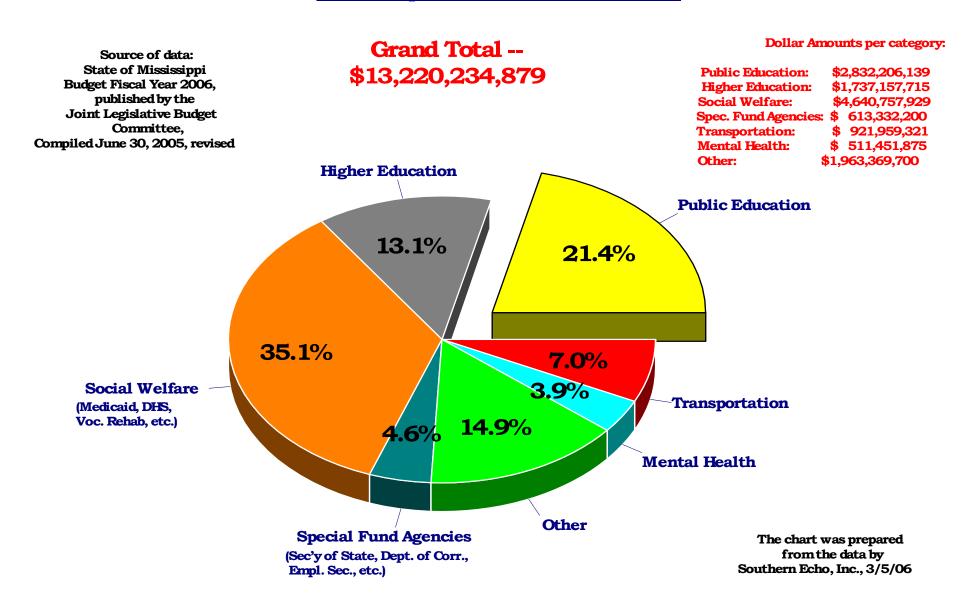
includes General Funds, Special State Funds and Federal Funds]



The chart was prepared from the data by Southern Echo, Inc., 2/28/06

Mississippi State Budget - Fiscal Year 2005

Includes: General, Special State and Federal Funds

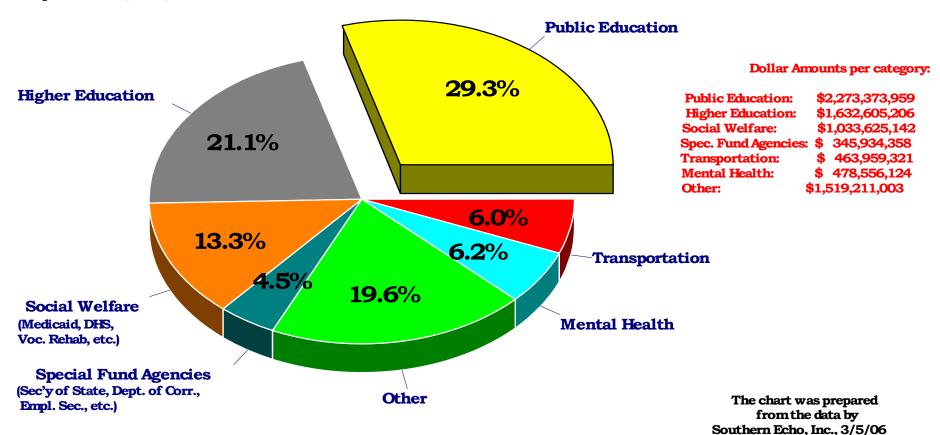


Mississippi State Budget -- Fiscal Year 2005

Includes State Funds Only: Special State and General Funds

Source of data:
State of Mississippi
Budget Fiscal Year 2006,
published by the
Joint Legislative Budget
Committee,
Compiled June 30, 2005, revised

Grand Total --\$7,747,265,113



Mississippi State Budget -- Fiscal Year 2005

Includes State Funds Only: General Fund

