

Why is there a problem?

Simple: State aid, both total aid and aid for schools, has been dropping since 2001.

Since 2001 the total difference between actual total aid and what it would have been if it kept up with the CPI is \$15,618,630. That is \$15 million that the Town of Amherst does not have that it otherwise would have. In 2006, the difference is \$2,786,738 – *enough to make the entire Amherst budget problem go away*. The difference in the school aid over the same period is \$3,918,045 and is \$941,282 for 2006 alone.

Sources:

Town of Amherst: http://www.amherstma.gov/annual_budgets/FY2006/PDFs/final_06_revenues.pdf

US Dept of labor: <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm#data>

