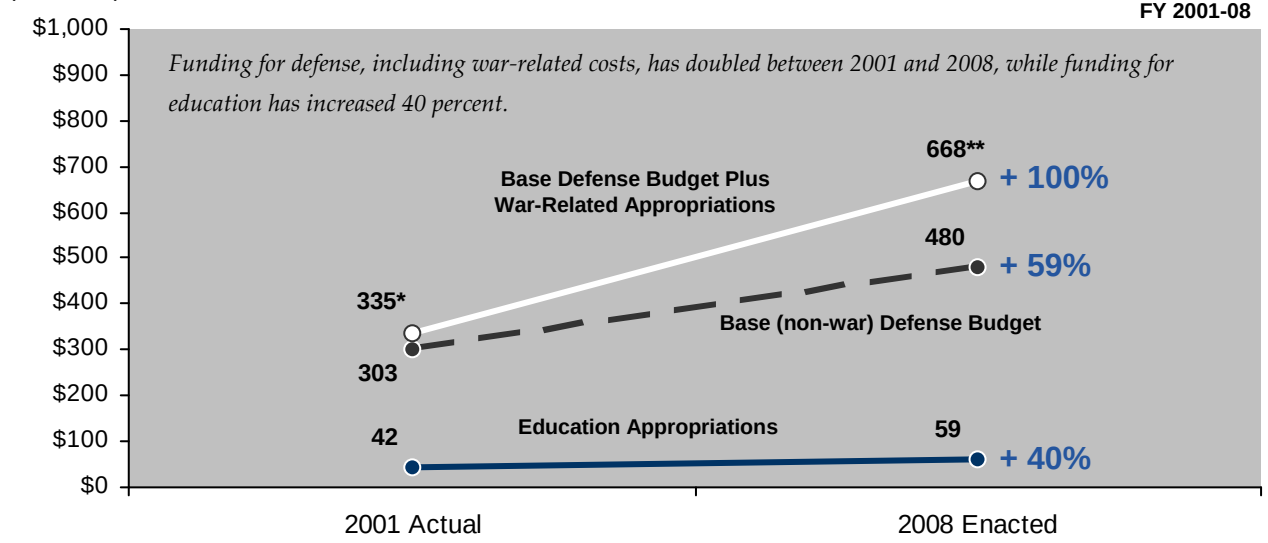
Education vs. Defense

Federal Discretionary Funding, FY 2001-09

Great Public Schools for Every Child

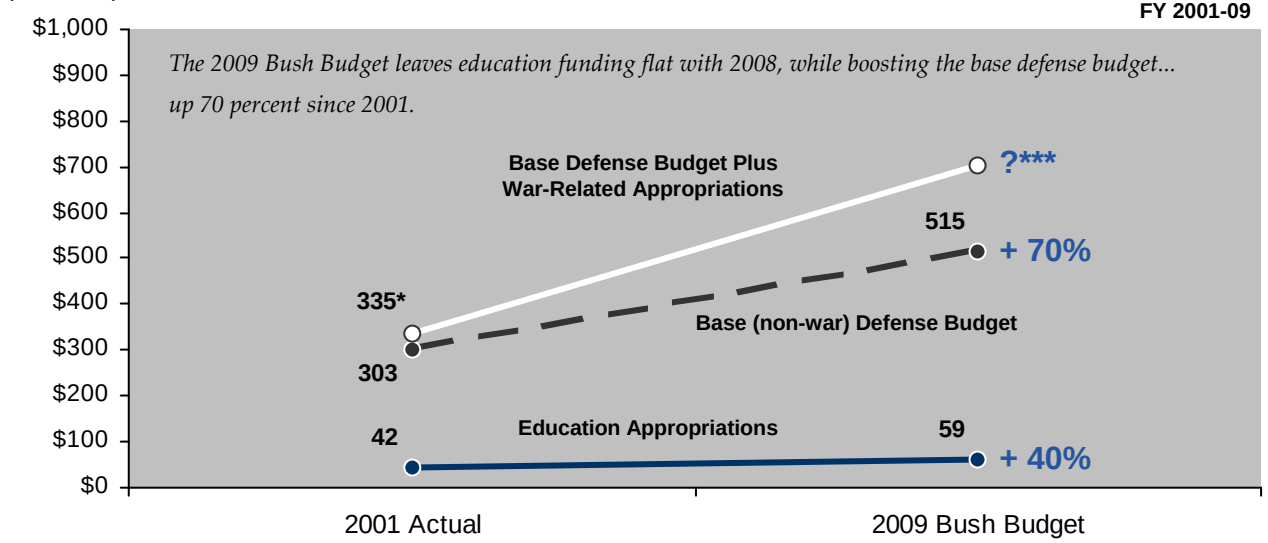
(in billions)

FY 2001-08



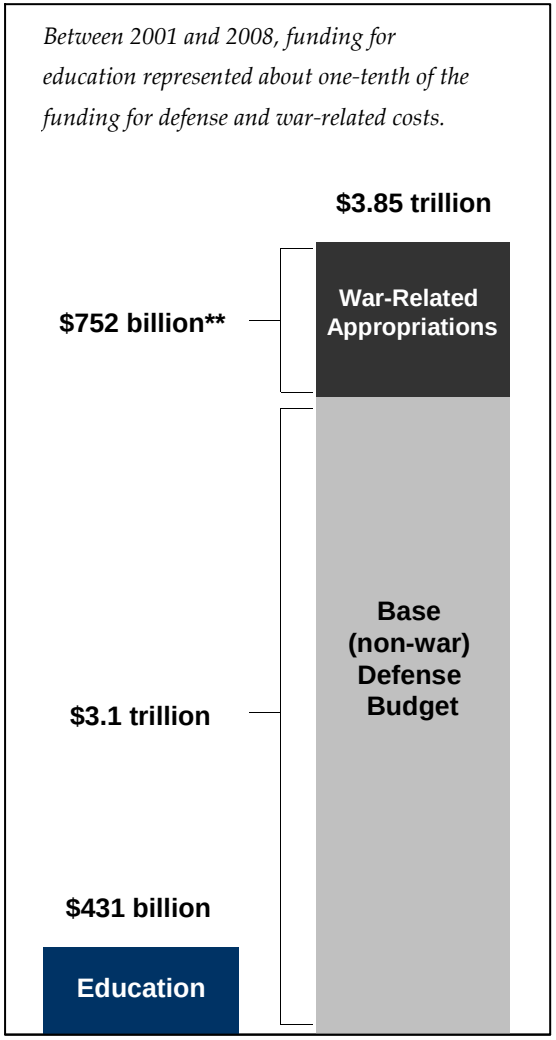
(in billions)

FY 2001-09



FY 2001-08

Between 2001 and 2008, funding for education represented about one-tenth of the funding for defense and war-related costs.



Cumulative Funding, 2001-08

Sources: Summary of Discretionary Funds, FY 2009 Request, U.S. Department of Education; Table S-3, Discretionary Funding by Major Agency, Budget of the United States Government, FY 2009 (and other years), Office of Management & Budget; Analysis of the Growth in Funding for Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Elsewhere in the War on Terrorism, Congressional Budget Office. * Reflects war-related appropriations for fiscal years 2001 and 2002. ** Assumes enactment of the President's request for $188 billion in war-related defense funding for 2008. Congress had appropriated $87 billion for that purpose as of December 2007. *** Unknown. The FY 2009 Bush Budget included $70 billion as an emergency allowance with the intent to request additional funding later on. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. As of May 9, 2008.