

Oregon K-12 School Funding and Graduation Rates*

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Chart A shows the increase in funds for K-12 education in Oregon between 1970 and 1999. Note that the up the left scale has been multiplied by 10,000 so it runs from 10,000/year to 10 billion/year. The funding increase over this time climbed from \$587 million to \$3.6 billion at a celeration of x1.4.

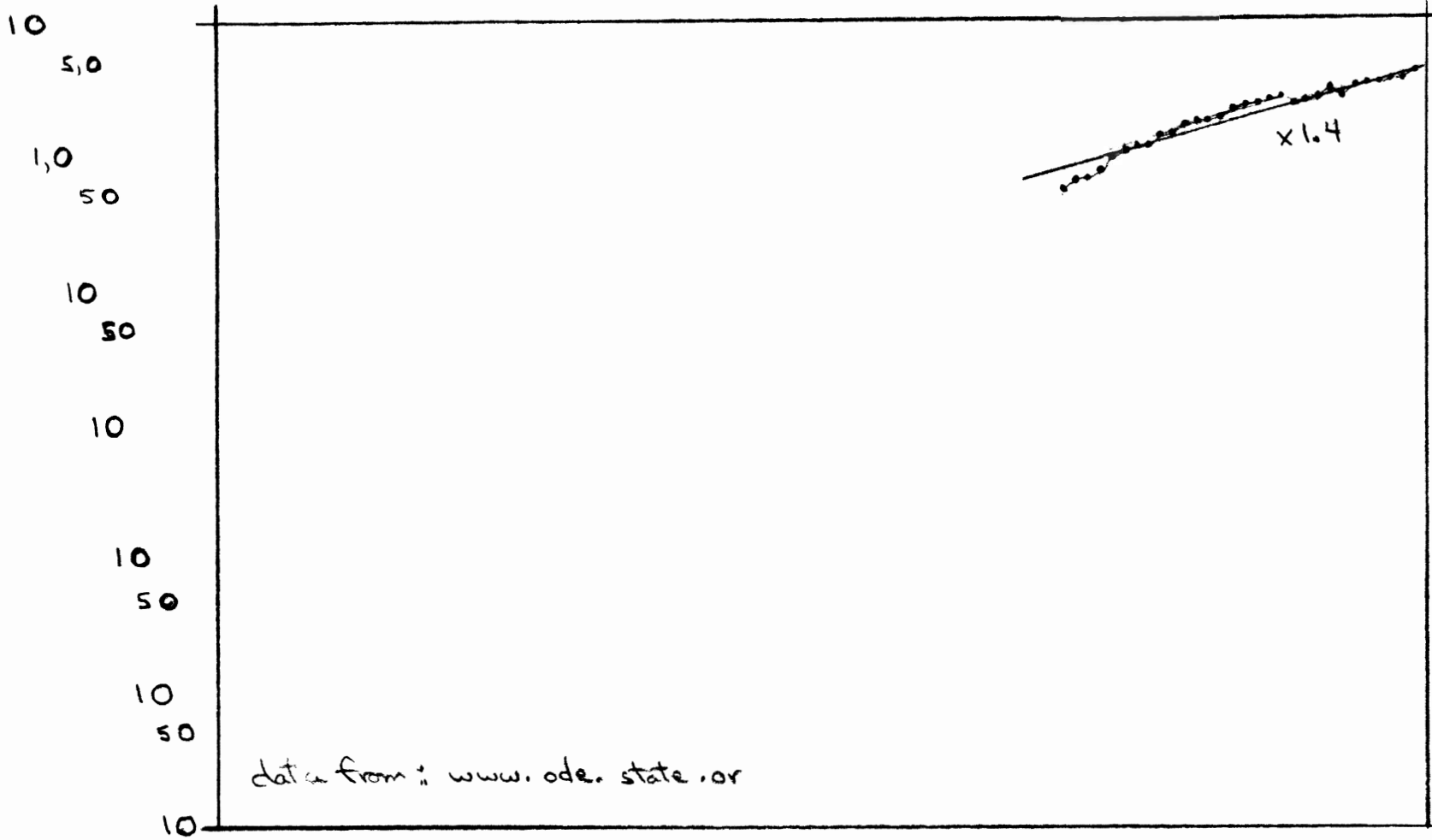
Chart B shows the number of high school graduates from 1971 through 1997. This shows a decline of ÷1.1. Declining from 32,000 to 28,000 over this 16 year period.

It appears as if the amount of money we invest in K-12 Education in Oregon does not improve the number of high school graduates. However, without doing a more in-depth analysis of the factors related to this data (e.g. Did the definition of drop out, graduate change during this time?, What categories of funding increased/ decreased?) it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions.

However, these charts represent the type of data that educators at district and state levels can represent graphically to support decision making regarding various fiscal, policy and legislative issues.

*This project was completed as a class project in an undergraduate winter term 2001 course at the University of Oregon entitled Evaluation for Decision Making taught by Clay Starlin.

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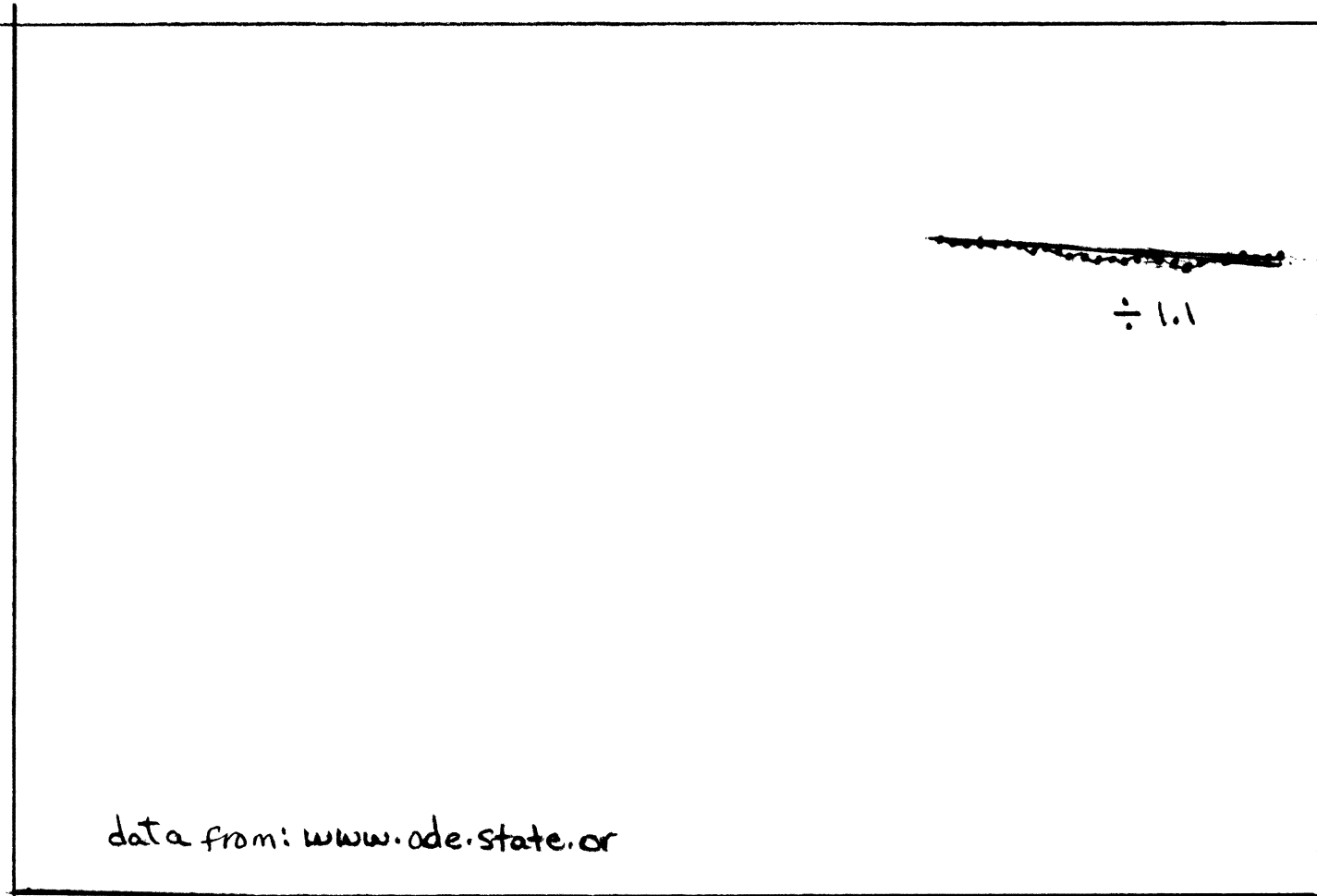
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Funds for
OR K-12
schools

B

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State of OR High School
graduates