

Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State of Maryland

Progress Report: August, 2015

Study Components

High Performing Schools Case Studies (Section 3.2.1):

- Summary notes are being compiled for each site as the first step in developing the cross case analysis

Successful Schools Study (Section 3.2.1):

- A first draft of the data collection tool used for gathering data on school level expenditures for the study is complete. APA is reviewing changes to Maryland's financial reporting system that may require updates to the tool.
- APA is finalizing the successful schools selection criteria to reduce the total number of schools selected to 80 or 90 schools.

Professional Judgment Study (Section 3.2.1):

- A first draft of the literature review on effective practices and strategies for sharing with the PJ panels has been completed and is undergoing internal review by the research team.
- The revised draft of a document summarizing Maryland state standards and other state performance expectations for sharing with the EB and PJ panels was approved by MSDE and distributed to EB panel participants in June.
- The Professional Judgment Panels have been scheduled for October and November 2015 and January 2016.

Evidence-Based Study (Section 3.2.1):

- POA is developing a synthesis of key findings across all four panels and developing the EB simulation model that will use the EB report as the basis for identifying an EB base per pupil figure and dollar per pupil figures and weights for at risk students, ELL students and students with disabilities.

School Size Study (Section 3.2.2):

- Final report submitted to MSDE and presented to the Stakeholder Group, July 22, 2015.

Evaluate Potential Impact of Community Eligibility Provision on State Aid Formulas (3.2.3.1.1):

- Final report submitted to MSDE and presented to the Stakeholder Group, July 22, 2015.
- APA is preparing an errata for this report.

Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services (3.2.3.2)

- Work on reviewing and assessing program data is continuing.
- Began an analysis of state licensing data.
- Conducted a capacity and enrollment analysis of state preschool /childcare programs.
- Continued work on customizing the return on investment methodology for MD specific context.

Equity and Local Wealth Measures (3.2.3.3):

- Continued work on integrating additional data for FY 2012-2013 into the equity analysis.

- Work is continuing on the following components of the definition of wealth portion of the study:
 - Analysis of the impact of changes in how income is included in school finance formulas.
 - Analysis of the change in timing of the measurement of personal income in the Maryland finance formula.
 - Analysis of best practices related to the use of wealth data in state funding formulas.
 - Analysis of best practices related to the recognition of property tax exemptions in state school funding formulas and the conceptual implications for school funding formulas.

Study of Increasing and Declining Enrollment (3.2.3.4):

- Final report submitted to MSDE and presented to the Stakeholder Group, July 22, 2015.
- APA and the research team are reviewing the report based on questions posed by members of the Stakeholder Group.

Evaluation of the Maryland Geographical Cost of Education Index (Section 3.2.3.6):

- Continuing to collect data for the computation of the State’s current GCEI.
- We have clarified with MSDE that the deliverable for September 2015 will be a report describing the methods for making regional cost adjustments to school funding formulas, an evaluation of the state’s current GCEI, and a recommendation as to the best approach for Maryland in the future.

Upcoming Deliverables

September 30, 2015

Final Report – Prekindergarten Services and Funding

Final Report – Evaluation of the Wealth Calculation

Preliminary Report – Review of the Maryland Geographic Cost of Education Index

Next Stakeholder Group Meeting: October 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201