

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

Progress Report: June, 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 working on adjusting 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):

- Work continues on the literature review of effective practices and strategies to share with the PJ panels.
- Initial and revised drafts of a document summarizing Maryland state standards and other state performance expectations for sharing with the EB and PJ panels have been completed.

Evidence-Based Study (Section 3.2.1):

- Initial work on developing the EB simulation model continues on schedule.
- A total of 76 participants have confirmed attendance at one of four Evidence-Based Professional Judgment Panels on June 23 and 24, 2015.
- Final arrangements for meeting locations, catering and other logistics have been completed.
- Odden and Picus, along with researchers from the Maryland Equity Project will manage the four Evidence-Based Professional Judgment panels on June 23 and 24, 2015.

School Size Study (Section 3.2.2):

- All final analyses were completed and the final report drafted. The report is currently undergoing a final edit and will be submitted to the MSDE for review.

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

- All final analyses were completed and the final report drafted and submitted to the MSDE for review.

Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services (3.2.3.2)

- Work on reviewing and assessing program data continues.
- The research team is submitting a request to the Department for a copy of the full version of Maryland's Preschool Development Grant application.

Equity and Local Wealth Measures (3.2.3.3):

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

- Work continues on the following components of the 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):

- Updated all analyses completed prior to receipt of new data sets, including:
 - Revenues, expenditures, and related per student costs.
 - Enrollment trends by LEA over time for total enrollments, grade level categories, and program categories.
 - Percentage enrollments for special education, ELL, and Title 1 students by LEA and grade levels (elementary, middle, high).
- Technology Inventory
 - Researched availability of technology inventory from past MDSE reports.
 - Proposed method of analyzing technology resources, given the lack of up-to-date information regarding technology in districts.
 - Summarized technology information from 2010 technology report from MSDE.
- Prepared description of the study, methodology, and results.
- Developed data tables and charts, formatted, and entered all figures into the draft report.
- Completed final report sections, integrating discussion of findings with data tables and charts.
- Completed and submitted final report for the study.

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

June 30, 2015

Final Report - School Size Study

Final Report - Proxy for Economically Disadvantaged Students

Final Report - Evaluation of the Impact of Increasing and Declining Enrollment

Interim Report - Adequacy Cost Study – Methodology and Progress to Date

Interim Report - Impact of Concentrations of Poverty, Literature Review

July 22, 2015

Stakeholder Meeting, 1:00 p.m. 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis

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