

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

Progress Report: March, 2015

Study Components

High Performing Schools Case Studies (Section 3.2.1):

- Completed site visits in five schools
- Received contact information for final school
- Began writing case reports for four schools

Evidence-Based Study (Section 3.2.1):

- Working to finalize the logistics for the EB professional judgment panels
- Anticipate scheduling the panels during the week of June 22-26
- Working to develop the EB simulation model

Professional Judgment Study (Section 3.2.1):

- Continue to work on the literature review on effective practices and strategies to share with the PJ panels

Successful Schools Study (Section 3.2.1):

- Developing the data collection tool that will be used to gather data on school level expenditures
- Exploring various approaches to adjusting the selection criteria to ensure the total number of schools selected is between 80 and 90 schools

School Size Study (Section 3.2.2):

- Continue to work on the literature review on creating small school models and costs of small schools
- Continue work on school climate and extra-curricular participation data collection
- Developing a model for distributing school operating support expenditures on a per square foot rather than a per student basis.
- Analyzing the relationships between school size and student outcomes and operating costs. This includes disaggregating achievement and cost data by LEA and enrollment range, and categorizing schools in Baltimore City and Baltimore County (charter/other operated/magnet) to provide further context for more nuanced representations by LEA

Evaluate Potential Impact of Community Eligibility Provision on State Aid Formulas

(3.2.3.1.1):

- Identifying and analyzing proxies for low-income students used in other state formulas
- Analyzing the funding consequences for districts and states based on different proxy models
- Review the strategies used by other states to implement and address issues related to CEP.

- Discussed work on alternative measures being undertaken by the NCES forum with Matthew Cohen, the work group chair

Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services (3.2.3.2)

- Compiling data points for state-by-state comparisons, including data on other states' QRIS systems, ECE systems, enrollment and funding

Study of Increasing and Declining Enrollment (3.2.3.4):

- Continued analyzing enrollment data trends by county using student counts and percent change
- Continued analyzing transportation costs and operations, including Maryland's transportation formula and trend analyses of transportation components (buses, students, mileages).
- Reviewing existing transportation formulas for 10 comparison states

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

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