

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

Progress Report: May, 2015

Study Components

High Performing Schools Case Studies (Section 3.2.1):

- Case reports for all sites are being drafted, reviewed and finalized.

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 on the literature review on effective practices and strategies to share with the PJ panels is continuing.
- APA has started work on developing the PJ panel materials, including a summary of state standards, agendas and instructions.

Evidence-Based Study (Section 3.2.1):

- An initial draft of the Evidence-Based report with core recommendations is nearly completed.
- Initial work has started on developing the EB simulation model in Excel.
- Leading Edge Solutions had identified community college facilities in four regions of the state to hold evidence-based panel sessions on June 23 and 24, 2015.
- The selection of panel participants is nearly complete.

School Size Study (Section 3.2.2):

- Continued work on the literature review on creating small school models and costs of small schools. This section will be augmented by case study data collected from Baltimore City schools.
- Additional research was conducted on identifying best practices for public input into school size decisions and related facilities master planning.
- Continued work on collecting data on school climate and extra-curricular participation. A short interview protocol was developed and interviews held with several statewide organizations involved in extracurricular activities.
- Continued work on the data preparation and analysis of the school climate data received from MSDE.
- Continued developing a model for distributing school operating support expenditures on a per square foot basis.
- Completed interviews on various school size issues and cost drivers with facility managers from three local school systems.

- Initiated a regression analysis of the relationships between school size and costs and school size and student outcomes.

Evaluate Potential Impact of Community Eligibility Provision on State Aid Formulas

(3.2.3.1.1):

- Continued work on identifying proxies for low-income students used in other states' school finance formulas.
- Continued work on strategies used by states to address CEP issues.
- Continued research on the MSDE protocols used to implement CEP.
- Continued building a county dataset of alternative measures for low income students and CEP.
- Continued investigating the strengths and weaknesses of alternative measures.

Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services (3.2.3.2)

- Continued data analysis of data received from MSDE.
- Began initial analysis EXCELS sub-score data received from MSDE.

Equity and Local Wealth Measures (3.2.3.3):

- Continued work on integrating additional data for FY 2012-2013 into the equity analysis.
- Continued work on the initial outline of the issues involved in the wealth measures study.
- Continued to research how other states' define wealth and use wealth in their school finance formulas.

Study of Increasing and Declining Enrollment (3.2.3.4):

- Continued the analysis of transportation costs and operations.
 - Continued research on Maryland's transportation formula.
 - Continued trend analyses of transportation components (buses, students, mileages).
- Continued use of a Geographic Information System for analysis and development of presentation materials.
- Began conducting interviews with four district transportation managers.
- Continued work on developing a method for analyzing technology costs in districts.

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

- Received some key data for recalculating the state's current GCEI if necessary.
- Started work on data organization and cleaning.

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