

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

Progress Report: October, 2015

Study Components

High Performing Schools Case Studies (Section 3.2.1):

- The research team is nearing completion of the case study cross case analysis
- All case study reports and the cross case analysis will be submitted to MSDE in early October.

Successful Schools Study (Section 3.2.1):

- APA and MSDE have scheduled a review session with a group of five local Chief Financial Officers (CFO) to review the school level expenditures data collection tool.
- APA is finalizing the successful schools selection criteria.
- APA will review the PARCC results as soon as they are released by the department.

Professional Judgment Study (Section 3.2.1):

- The Professional Judgment Panels have been scheduled for October and November 2015 and January 2016.
- APA has started analyses for identifying the appropriate sizes for the representative districts and schools used in the PJ panel process and cost model.
- APA and its partners are beginning the work of determining prices for inclusion in the Evidence-based (EB) and Professional Judgment (PJ) models, including preliminary salary levels, benefits costs, technology costs, and energy costs.

Evidence-Based Study (Section 3.2.1):

- In late September, APA began its review of the draft EB report that includes:
 - The research basis for the EB recommendations.
 - A summary of the EB professional judgment panels.
 - The cross case analysis of the case studies.
- A draft version of the EB simulation model is under review. This model uses the EB report as the basis for identifying an EB base per pupil figure and weights for at risk students, ELL students and students with disabilities. Final Salary, benefit and other pricing data are needed before the simulation Model can begin generating data.

Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services (3.2.3.2)

- Draft report provided to MSDE for review.
- Based on discussions with MSDE and its partners, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Legislative Services, APA is revising the draft report and a revised draft will be submitted mid-November.

Equity and Local Wealth Measures (3.2.3.3):

- Draft report provided to MSDE for review.
- Based on discussions with MSDE and its partners, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Legislative Services, and comments from the Stakeholder Group, APA is revising the draft report and a revised draft will be submitted mid-November.

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):

- Preliminary report on the GCEI index methodology in Maryland was submitted to MSDE and provided to the Stakeholder Group. This report was presented at the October 13th Stakeholder Meeting.
- The report includes a discussion of the current adjustments used by the state as well as a recommendation that the state use a comparable wage index (CWI) for future adjustments.
- APA is reviewing comments from the Stakeholder Group and will provide additional information on the variables included in a CWI as well as the methodology for calculating a GCEI using the CWI.

Upcoming Deliverables**January 2016**

Revised Report – Increasing and Declining Enrollment

Revised Report – Equity and Local Wealth Measures

Report – Evaluation of Prekindergarten Services

Next Stakeholder Group Meeting: January, 2016 in Annapolis (specific date, time, and location to be determined)