



“Determining the Cost for Funding Educational Achievement for all Michigan Students PK-12”

PRIMARY STRENGTHS OF THE MICHIGAN ADEQUACY STUDY

- The researchers used multiple methodologies to improve validity and reliability of Study. Michigan now has the benefit of three different methodologies for determining the cost of student achievement for All Michigan students.
- The methodologies selected are the Professional Judgment Method and the Evidence Based Method. These are the most often used methodologies in the United States
- A review of the 39 school finance adequacy studies conducted in 24 states and the District of Columbia between 2003 and 2014 identified seven “best practices” for the design of adequacy studies. All of these best practices were used:
 - Clear focus on improvement of student performance
 - The potential value of case studies in future work
 - Importance of state policy makers and local stakeholders in the process
 - Combining multiple methods in each state study
 - How professional judgment panelists were selected
 - Number of professional judgment panels (Michigan had 16 separate panels, which is more than other states)
 - Accurately representing compensation in the analysis
- The experience and qualifications of the ten member research team from two nationally renowned research firms is beyond comparison. The research team for the Michigan Adequacy Study conducted 26 of the 39 studies conducted in the United States between 2003 and 2014.
- The researchers worked with 266 Michigan educators from all across the state who served on 20 separate panels and who came from 146 separate educational entities served by 42 different ISD’s. The composition of this group of educators mirrored the student population in terms of gender, race and geographic location.
- The researchers were required to address the cost of serving special needs populations, and other student needs and district characteristics including:
 - Preschool
 - Poverty (both rural and urban)
 - Special education
 - Career and technical education
 - English language learners
 - How high concentrations of special needs changes cost
 - Charter school educational delivery model differences
 - How costs differ per pupil for school districts of different enrollment sizes
 - How cost is impacted by geographic isolation
 - To what extent regional cost of living impacts the cost of educational delivery
 - How student transportation cost varies and why
- Transparency....the details of the research methodology, the staffing ratios, instructional supports and intervention strategies and staff wage information are available to all within the report.