



## January 2018 Adequacy Study

### Determining the Cost of Funding Educational Achievement for ALL Michigan Students PK-12

#### CORE MESSAGES

**The School Finance Research Collaborative has completed Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study, providing a roadmap to fixing Michigan's broken school funding system.**

- The nation's top two school finance research firms determined the true cost of educating a student, informed by nearly 300 Michigan educators from across the state.
- The final report provides a base cost for student achievement in Michigan, with additional funding considerations for special education, English Language Learners and poverty.
- The study was supported by the School Finance Research Collaborative, a diverse group of business leaders and education experts, from Metro Detroit to the U.P., who agree it's time to change the way Michigan's schools are funded.

**The study proves that per-pupil funding must be increased to provide all students with a high-quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century education that addresses their wide-ranging learning needs.**

- The study concluded that it costs a minimum \$9,590 to educate a child in Michigan, regardless of location, income, learning challenges or other circumstances.
- Recognizing that all children are unique and many learn differently, the study calls for additional funding weights for special education, English Language Learners, Career and Technical Education and students living in poverty.
- The study concluded that Michigan's school funding system also must take into account district size, districts in geographically isolated areas, and differing transportation costs.
- Districts and charter schools should get the same base cost for each regular education student, and the comparable wage index should be used to account for cost of living differences.
- Districts and charter schools in the state pension system should have those legacy costs and other costs fully funded in addition to the base cost per pupil.
- Further study is needed on capital needs and funding for school districts and charter schools, high-needs poverty and student transportation costs.

**With the true cost of educating a student in hand, Michigan policymakers can adopt a new approach that helps improve student achievement, reflects varying student needs, and prepares students for the ever-changing modern workforce.**

- Every child learns differently, and to improve student performance we must change how we fund Michigan's schools to address the individual needs of all students.
- The world has changed dramatically since Proposal A passed in 1994, including the advent of the Internet, expanded global competition and increased automation, and our school funding system must reflect those changes.
- Michigan ranks at the bottom in student performance nationwide, and our students will only continue to fall behind if our school funding system doesn't address their wide-ranging needs.