



# **CRC School Reporting Series**

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Michigan**

## Update on CRC Education Research

Presentation to:  
*MSBO - School Finance Services Committee*

Craig Thiel  
September 15, 2011

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## About The Citizens Research Council

- Founded in 1916
- Statewide
- Nonpartisan
- Private not-for-profit
- Promotes sound policy for state and local governments through factual research
- Relies on charitable contributions from Michigan foundations, businesses, organizations, and individuals

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## CRC's Education Project

CRC's education study is funded in part by:

- The W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- The Frey Foundation
- The PNC Foundation
- Meritor
- The Richard C. and Barbara C. Van Dusen Family Fund
- A consortium of education groups including: the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, Michigan Association of School Boards, Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of School Studies, Inc., Michigan Association of School Administrators, Michigan School Business Officials, Middle Cities Education Association, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, Michigan PTSA, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

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### Work Done to Date

- Began in Fall of 2009 and extended through 2011
- Reports released on "rolling" schedule
- Seven reports completed to date
  - Governance (January '10)
  - State and Local Revenues (September '10)
  - Nontraditional Schools (October '10)
  - Early Childhood Education (February '11)
  - Child Care and the State (March '11)
  - Reform of Governance and Management (May '11)
  - Distribution of State Aid (August '11)

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### Work Done to Date

- Two surveys (Spring/Summer 2010)
  - Catalog of service provision by LEAs and ISDs
  - This is original data, similar to what we did with general units of government
- Also of interest:
  - Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act (PA 4 of 2011) - April '11

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### Where Can You Find Reports?

- [www.crcmich.org](http://www.crcmich.org) under our "publications" link
- For most reports, we have multiple publications
  - Full report
  - Summary
  - Recorded webinar
  - PowerPoint presentation

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**Who is Using the Research?**

- Goal is to provide a foundation of relevant, unbiased, and timely research for discussions surrounding the various aspects of K-12 education policy
- Our intended audience is fairly broad, e.g., general public, parents, policymakers, school officials

***WE HOPE YOU ARE USING IT***

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**Who is Using the Research?**

In terms of dissemination, we know that we had:

- ~ 34,000 publication downloads
- ~ 250 live webinar participants
- ~ 225 views of recorded webinars
- Blog postings at *CRC Column*
- Also, staff gave multiple presentations to interested groups

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**What is Next for CRC?**

- A few more reports to come in 2011:
  - Teaching and Public Policy (Fall '11)
  - Analysis of service provision and opportunities for collaboration (Fall '11)

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**Thank You**

CRC Publications available at  
[www.crcmich.org](http://www.crcmich.org)

Providing Independent, Nonpartisan  
Public Policy Research Since 1916

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## Summary of CRC's Education Policy Research

***Public Education Governance in Michigan*** (January 2010) examines the current governance structure of public K-12 education in Michigan. The report describes the organization and functions of different educational entities and details the various roles played by the local, state, and federal governments. *Resources Available: Report, Summary*

***State and Local Revenues for Public Education in Michigan*** (September 2010), the first in a series of reports dealing with K-12 finances. This report describes the current financing system and the changes adopted as part of Proposal A of 1994. It examines revenue performance at the state and local level in the context of economic, demographic, and statutory changes, and identifies short- and long-term issues affecting K-12 finances. *Resources Available: Report, Summary, Recorded Webinar, Slideshow*

***Non-Traditional K-12 Schools in Michigan*** (September 2010) covers the history and theory behind charter schools and the origins of these entities in Michigan. It discusses the organization, funding, and facilities of charter schools. The report compares and contrasts the educational delivery systems in charter schools with those in traditional public schools. Also, it reviews the performance of charters, vis-à-vis traditional public schools. Other non-traditional schooling methods (e.g., virtual and home schooling) are also covered. *Resources Available: Report, Summary, Recorded Webinar, Slideshow*

***Early Childhood Education*** (February 2011) describes programs that invest in the "front end" of formal K-12 education: kindergarten, Head Start, and Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program. It also describes research on brain development that explains why investing in early education may be a more effective strategy than other strategies that are being pursued. *Resources Available: Report, Summary, Recorded Webinar, Slideshow*

***Child Care and the State*** (March 2011) focuses on the various child care options available to Michigan residents and the role that state government plays in licensing and regulation of child care. It examines issues of accreditation, cost, and quality. The report lays out the different and inter-related child care programs operated by the state, including Great Start. *Resources Available: Report, Summary*

***Reform of K-12 School Governance and Management in Michigan*** (May 2011) examines the primary reasons and motivations for governance and management reforms. It examines the strengths and weaknesses of the current governance structures in Michigan. This report also examines the various management models used to operate schools and the application of these models in Michigan. It reviews alternative governance and management structures employed in other states and their applicability for Michigan. *Resources Available: Report, Summary*

***Distribution of State Aid to Michigan Schools*** (August 2011), the second school finance report, focuses on the distribution to schools of state and local revenues used for general operations. The report examines the foundation grant, including its origins and changes to the grant over time. It examines the differences in foundation grant growth rates by district and student characteristics. The report examines the progress towards greater per-pupil revenue equalization and the effects on academic achievement. *Resources Available: Report, Summary, Recorded Webinar, Slideshow*

### Other Related Research

***Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act*** (April 2011) provides a detailed examination of the new state law (Public Act 4 of 2011) governing state government's intervention or takeover of a local government or school district by an emergency manager. This report provides an overview of the processes involved with: a state review of local finances; consent agreement; determination of a financial emergency; and appointment of an emergency manager. The report reviews the roles of various individuals at the state and local level in carrying out the provisions of the PA 4. *Resources Available: Report, Summary, Recorded Webinar, Slideshow*

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