

FACT SHEET:

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY PROVIDES BUILDING BLOCKS TO REFORM MICHIGAN SCHOOL FUNDING

A comprehensive statewide study examining school funding in Michigan, conducted by the School Finance Research Collaborative and released in January 2018, clearly demonstrates the need to reform Michigan’s school funding system and provides policymakers with building blocks to begin the process. The School Finance Research Collaborative worked in concert with the nation’s two leading school funding research firms to develop the report, which provides the most complete data available on the cost of student achievement in Michigan.

HERE ARE THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE NEW REPORT:

- ✓ The base per-pupil cost to educate a regular education K-12 student in Michigan is \$9,590, which does not include transportation, food service or capital costs, and only includes pension costs at 4.6% of wages.
- ✓ Charter schools should have the same base per-pupil funding for a regular education student and the same adjustments to the base amount that traditional districts receive.
- ✓ It costs \$14,155 to educate a preschool student age 3 or 4.
- ✓ In addition to the base per-pupil cost, a percentage of the base cost should be provided for special education, English Language Learners, students living in poverty and programs to provide Career and Technical Education.
- ✓ Transportation costs should be funded at \$731 per rider until further study can be carried out.
- ✓ Because Michigan’s school district sizes vary widely and small districts lack economies of scale, district size must be taken into account, with funding increases provided for all districts under 7,500 students.

“This one-of-a-kind, comprehensive report reflects the input of nearly 300 educators throughout Michigan, giving policymakers clear direction on how much it costs to educate a child and how best to reform Michigan’s broken school funding system.”

– Bob Moore, School Finance Research Project Director

Additional research will be needed in several areas, including a full capital study to examine district costs; a review of literate and illiterate poverty, and concentration of poverty by district; and a full transportation cost study.

Final Recommended Per-Student Base Cost and Weights*

Final Recommendation	
Base Cost	\$9,590
Size Adjustment	Adjusted by Formula
Poverty Weight	0.35
ELL	
WIDA 1-2	0.70
WIDA 3-4	0.50
WIDA 5-6/FELS	0.35
Special Education	
Mild	0.70
Moderate	1.15
Severe	State Reimbursement
CTE	Base cost plus 10% per CTE enrolled student
Preschool	14,155
Isolation	0.04