Assessing Adequacy in Education Spending: A Summary of Key Findings

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Philadelphia City Council Committee on Education
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Our Investigation

A comprehensive (and ongoing) assessment of:

1. The legislative, legal and policy context shaping education funding both locally and nationally;

2. Funding trends – the sources of education funding and expenditures per-pupil – both locally and nationally; and

3. Issues related to equitable and adequate funding, on a per-pupil basis, throughout the Commonwealth, with a focus on the School District of Philadelphia (SDP)
Our Findings

• Statewide, we find that:
  – The adequacy gap during the 2009-10 school year was largest in the poorest and lowest achieving districts
  – In 2009-10, the adequacy gap for all (non-charter) districts was, on average, $751 per-pupil
  – These estimates suggest that an additional $1.26 billion was required to account for the adequacy gap

• In the School District of Philadelphia (SDP),
  – Evidence suggests that rather than a story of failure, the district is a story of possibility
  – When comparing the SDP to peer districts in Pennsylvania that serve very similar students and produce very similar levels of educational outcomes, we find that:
    – The SDP is not only doing more, per-pupil, with its current resources, but also presents an opportunity for investment and growth
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Poverty Districts</th>
<th>SDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Free/Reduced-Price Lunch
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Poverty

Per-Pupil Spending (2010$)

- Highest Poverty Districts: $13,308
- SDP: $11,417
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Poverty Districts</th>
<th>Per-Pupil Spending (2010$)</th>
<th>Adequacy Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$13,308</td>
<td>$11,417</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$15,189</td>
<td>$16,895</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SDP

Per-Pupil Spending (2010$) Adequacy Amount

WWW.GSE.UPENN.EDU
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Achievement

% Proficient/Advanced – Math (2010 PSSA)

- Lowest Achieving Districts: 54%
- SDP: 56%
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Achievement

Lowest Achieving (Math) Districts SDP

Per-Pupil Spending (2010$)

$13,837

$11,417
The Evidence: Education Spending by School Achievement

Lowest Achieving (Math) Districts
- Per-Pupil Spending (2010$): $13,837
- Adequacy Amount: $15,233

SDP
- Per-Pupil Spending (2010$): $11,417
- Adequacy Amount: $16,895
# The Evidence: Education Spending by School Achievement

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<td>Per-Pupil Spending (2010$)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$13,837</td>
<td>$5,478</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,233</td>
<td>$11,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$8,000</td>
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**Legend:**
- Blue: Per-Pupil Spending (2010$)
- Red: Adequacy Amount
- Green: Adequacy Gap
The Possibility

• The SDP did more with less compared to peer districts
• Still, only half of the district’s students were proficient in math and reading
• Therefore, adequate levels of resources are necessary so that all of the district’s students can be successful academically
Thank You

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