

Costing out Study Results for Central Susquehanna Region Districts Revised Dec 2007

School Distirct	Per pupil cost 2005-2006	Costing out estimate per pupil	Difference per pupil	ADM	Total Extra spending
Selinsgrove ASD	\$8,409	\$10,885	\$2,476	2806	\$6,947,656
Berwick	\$8,707	\$11,931	\$3,223	3507	\$11,303,061
Central Columbia	\$7,738	\$10,523	\$2,785	2250	\$6,266,250
Danville	\$9,348	\$11,097	\$1,749	2622	\$4,585,878
Lewisburg	\$9,242	\$10,783	\$1,541	1858	\$2,863,178
Line Mountain	\$9,322	\$11,330	\$2,009	1292	\$2,595,628
MiddWest	\$7,570	\$10,806	\$3,236	2430	\$7,863,480
Mifflinburg	\$7,961	\$11,095	\$3,134	2400	\$7,521,600
Milton	\$8,823	\$11,785	\$2,962	2319	\$6,868,878
Shamokin	\$8,671	\$11,948	\$3,277	2592	\$8,493,984
Shikellamy	\$8,329	\$10,783	\$2,454	3227	\$7,919,058
Warrior Run	\$8,129	\$10,890	\$2,761	1781	\$4,917,341
Southern Columbia	\$7,777	\$11,071	\$3,294	1517	\$4,996,998
MT Carmel	\$7,230	\$11,235	\$4,005	1772	\$7,096,860
RVSED 12/7/07				Region total:	\$90,239,850

¹Source: "Costing Out the Resources Needed to Meet Pennsylvania's Public Education Goal" by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. 2007

The task was to determine the basic cost per student necessary to provide all students with a quality education that allows them to meet state academic standards and assessments. This includes special ed, English language learners, and gifted students.

It does not include spending for buildings, debt service, food service or transportation.

*ADM – Average Daily Membership – number of students in the district for the school year.

The study determined the cost was \$11,926 (error amt \$12,057) per student, on average in PA. To achieve that level of funding requires raising current education funding of \$17 billion to about \$21.63 billion (error amt. original report - nearly \$22 billion)

¹ "Costing Out the Resources Needed to Meet Pennsylvania's Public Education Goal" by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. 2007 page 54.

They found 30 school districts (501 school districts in PA) in the state met or exceeded their identified base cost. Twenty of those districts are in the highest wealth quintile and their tax effort is 10 percent below the state average.²

"No existing research demonstrates a straightforward relationship between how much is spent to provide education services and performance."

That's not rhetoric; that's a disclaimer from a costing-out consultant's own reports.

"It's true," says Eric Hanushek, a school finance economist at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "Decades of research show that while more money can make a difference, there's no way to link specific spending with what students will achieve."³

Per Education Policy Leadership Center Newsletter 12/14/07 PA STATEWIDE EDUCATION COSTING-OUT STUDY REVISED

In preparing detailed spreadsheets to support the recently released education costing-out study, the authors of the report discovered two errors in demographic data they initially used to prepare the report. These were: The 2001-02 enrollment modification percentage. The number of students with disabilities in 2005-06. Because these impact the five-year ADM used to calculate the base adequacy amount and the number of special education students used to calculate the adequacy figure for special education, this actually results in somewhat different adequacy amounts for every district in the state.

It is important to note that this does not change the overall conclusions of the report nor any of the actual components of the adequacy calculation itself – the base amount per student, the weights for students with disabilities, low-income students, English language learners, and gifted students, the district size adjustment, and the regional cost of living adjustment. The numbers APA has now changed will all be changed again in the coming months, as updated data for 2006-07 become available.

Here are the key results of the changes:

The statewide average adequacy amount per pupil is \$11,926 (not \$12,057), requiring an average increase of \$2,414 (not \$2,545) per ADM. Overall statewide adequacy spending is \$21.63 billion (not \$21.86 billion), requiring an increase of \$4.38 billion (not \$4.61 billion) or 25.4 percent (not 26.8 percent). 471 districts (not 474) are spending below their adequacy amounts; the other 30 (not 27) are spending above their adequacy amounts.

For an updated summary from the State Board of Education, click on Costing-Out Study Revised Summary 12-10-07 (PDF) or go to http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed.

³ The Alchemy of "Costing Out" an Adequate Education, Eric A. Hanushek Stanford University, September 14, 2006