The way we fund Michigan’s schools is broken.  

“Our K-12 school funding decisions are made based on the current economic condition of the state and political compromise. But those decisions fail to address the long-term question, ‘What will it take to prepare today’s children for tomorrow’s economy?’”

— School Finance Research Collaborative
Who We Are

We are 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 School Finance Research Collaborative is bringing together top industry experts to reexamine our approach to how we fund Michigan’s schools.
Collaborative Members

Dr. Michael Addonizio  
Professor of Education Policy Studies, Wayne State University

Amber Arellano  
Executive Director of The Education Trust – Midwest  
Served on United Nations Commission for Human Rights & at the National Poverty Center

Dr. Brian D. Cherry  
Professor, Northern Michigan University  
Former Marquette Area Public School Board Member

Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark  
Superintendent, Newaygo County RESA

Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson  
Vice-President of the Oakland Schools Education Foundation, Superintendent of Oakland Schools

Rob Fowler  
President & CEO  
Small Business Association of Michigan

Gilda Jacobs  
President & CEO for Michigan League for Public Policy  
Former Member of the Michigan Senate & House of Representatives (Representing Southeast Oakland County)

Rick Johnson  
Former State Representative (102nd District – Cadillac Area)

Doug Maibach  
Chairman of Barton Malow Enterprises Executive Vice President of the Barton Malow Co.

Kyle McCree  
Director for Core Initiatives, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce

Teresa Weatherall Neal  
Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools

Matt Gillard  
CEO of Michigan’s Children  
Former Member Michigan House of Representatives (106th District – Alpena Area)
Collaborative Members, cont.

Glenn S. Oxender  
Former Member, Michigan House of Representatives  
(42nd & 59th Districts)

Dr. Timothy G. Quinn  
Former Director, University of Michigan Collaborative Effort for Academic Outreach

Dr. Daniel J. Reattoir  
Superintendent of Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District

Angela Reyes  
Executive Director, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

Mary Kay Shields  
President, CS Partners

James Stapleton  
President of B&R Consultants, Past Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents Members

Elizabeth Welch  
Attorney East Grand Rapids School Board of Education Member Trustee for Steelcase Foundation

Todd Ziebarth  
Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Support, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
Currently there are **20 MEMBERS** of the School Finance Research Collaborative

- **10** previously or currently represent statewide organizations
- **4** have served in the Michigan Legislature
- **10** are or were teachers, professors, principals or school support staff
- **6** are or were school board or university board of trustees members
- **4** current or former charter school representatives
- **9** are in private-sector businesses
- **6** are or were superintendents of school districts or intermediate school districts
- **9** have doctorates
- **2** have been college presidents
Adequacy studies have evolved over time to use multiple approaches in determining the base student cost and adjustments for student and district needs.

From 2003 to 2014, 25 states conducted adequacy studies. In 23 of the 25 states, multiple methodologies were used.

Some states have completed multiple studies.
Adequacy studies have evolved over time to use multiple approaches in determining the base student cost and adjustments for student and district needs, which are needed in state school funding formulas.

The four approaches used are:

**The Successful School Districts (SSD) Approach**
- Infers that the base cost spent by districts found to be meeting standards could be used for all districts. The SSD approach is typically used for setting a base cost but not adjustments.

**The Professional Judgment (PJ) Approach**
- Gathers leading educators most knowledgeable about the delivery of quality education to identify the human resources and operating expenses needed to meet standards in specific circumstances. The PJ approach is often used to set adjustments for student and specific provider needs.

**The Evidence-Based (EB) Approach**
- Uses research knowledge of academic research on student performance to identify the resources needed. The EB approach then creates a set of schools that are reviewed by educators to adjust for State specific context in addition to State standards.

**The Statistical (SA) Approach**
- Uses regression analysis and statistical modeling to examine the relationship between district spending and district performance.
• Good first step

• Did not use multiple methodologies as other states have done, or result in legislative action.

• The Collaborative’s work will build upon the state study to produce a comprehensive picture.
A system should be created to track special education expenditures for districts at the district level.

Michigan should collect targeted data to set regional cost differences in the future.

Michigan should create a more equitable school funding system.
Michigan should explore alternatives for narrowing the wide range of per-pupil revenues and expenditures.

Michigan should increase revenues for the lowest-spending districts and narrow the gap between high-spending and low-spending districts over time.

Ultimately, the state should have a single formula allowance amount for all districts with an option to seek local operating revenues.
Timeline of Events

- The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a $100,000 grant to the Oakland Schools Education Foundation to conduct a comprehensive adequacy study after release of the Michigan Education Finance Study in June of 2016.

- In late 2016, business and education leaders and community leaders, including representatives of both traditional and charter public schools, united to form the School Finance Research Collaborative to support the new study.

- The Collaborative was unveiled to the public on Jan. 10, 2017.
The Collaborative’s official launch on Jan. 10, 2017, included press conferences in these media markets:

- Metro Detroit (Southfield)
- Lansing

Byrum & Fisk will continue a steady drumbeat of communications for the Collaborative with consistent, disciplined messaging.
Media coverage from 22+ different news outlets, including an Associated Press story that went national and regional radio.
Following an RFP, Colorado-based Augenblick, Palaich and Associates and California-based Picus, Odden & Associates were selected in April 2017 to conduct the new adequacy study using multiple methodologies.

The research team will use the Professional Judgment and Evidence Based methods, and incorporate the findings of the Michigan Education Finance Study.

Results of the study are expected to be released by early 2018.
What’s Next?

- The research team will create 19 panels among 220 Michigan educators including teachers, teacher consultants, principals, superintendents, special education directors and specialists.

- There will be a special panel on charter schools – a first for such a study in the United States – as well as panels on poverty, preschool, districts of varying sizes, and geographically isolated districts.

- Additional panels will focus on special needs students including English Language Learners, at-risk students, career and technical education and student needs from preschool through high school.
Key Milestones: Website and Social Media Launch

- Built and launched website: FundMIschools.org
- Launched a Facebook page: Facebook.com/FundMIschools
- Launched a Twitter account: Twitter.com/FundMIschools
How You Can Help the Collaborative

- Submit a Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper.
- Discuss the Collaborative’s work with your school community, friends and family.
- Follow the Collaborative on Facebook and Twitter.
THANK YOU

Q&A