

# School Finance Research Collaborative

## Speakers' Bureau Talking Points

- Welcome, and thank you for joining us today.
- My name is NAME.
- The School Finance Research Collaborative is a diverse group of business leaders and education experts from Metro Detroit to the U.P.
- All members agree:
- It's time to fix Michigan's broken school funding approach so all Michigan kids can succeed.
- **A quick recap of the Collaborative's work to date:**
  - The Collaborative launched in 2016.
  - In 2018, the Collaborative delivered Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study.
  - Also in 2018, the Public Engagement Committee educated policymakers, candidates for public office and the public at large about this important research.
- **The Collaborative provided Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study because:**
  - Michigan's school funding approach fails too many students.
  - Student test scores continue to fall, and
  - A new, fairer school funding method is needed that addresses the needs of all students.
- **The report determined:**

- It costs a minimum **\$9,590** to educate a student in Michigan.
- Charter schools should receive the same funding as school districts, and
- It costs **\$14,155** to educate a preschool student age 3 or 4.
- **The report also determined additional funding should be provided for:**
  - Special education
  - English Language Learners
  - Students living in poverty, and
  - Career and Technical Education
- **Additional key findings include:**
  - Transportation should be funded at **\$731** per rider, until further study is completed, and
  - Due to a lack of economies of scale, additional funding is needed for districts under 7,500 students.
- Gov. Whitmer made education a top priority in her 2020 budget proposal, presented to the Legislature in March.
- The governor's proposal supports the Collaborative's research, including a weighted funding formula for:
  - Special education
  - At-risk students, and
  - Career and Technical Education
- We applaud Gov. Whitmer for using the Collaborative study as a roadmap to serving the needs of all students.
- The Collaborative study determined the true cost of educating a child to Michigan's academic standards.

- The research did not determine how to fund those costs.
- It is now up to lawmakers to work with the governor and pass a school-aid budget.
- Moving forward, the Collaborative will:
  - Continue its dialogue with the governor's office and policymakers
  - Advocate for the study's findings, and
  - Continue serving as Michigan's No. 1 resource on school funding
- You can help the Collaborative continue its mission to provide a new, fairer school funding approach by:
  - Checking out the Collaborative website at [fundmischools.org](http://fundmischools.org)
  - Following the Collaborative on social media
  - Signing up to be an Advocate
  - Discussing results of the study with friends and family
  - Sharing the Collaborative video, found on our website
  - Having your local district pass a Resolution of Support
- Thank you for your time today.
- Now, I'll take any questions you might have.