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:
  o The Collaborative launched in 2016.
  o In 2018, the Collaborative delivered Michigan’s first comprehensive school adequacy study.
  o 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:
  o Michigan’s school funding approach fails too many students.
  o Student test scores continue to fall, and
  o 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.

- The Collaborative study determined the true cost of educating a child to Michigan’s academic standards.

- 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
  • 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.