GETTING SCHOOL FUNDING BACKWARDS

IN CARES ACT DISTRIBUTION, PENNSYLVANIA SHORTS
SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE GREATEST NEED

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Federal CARES Act Dollars for Schools

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for states: $150 billion
- CARES Act funding for Pennsylvania: about $5 billion
- CARES Act funding for the 500 K-12 public school districts
  - First round: $400 million—allocated using the ESSA Title 1 formula
  - Second round: $200 million with the allocation up to the state
The Good News—the Allocation of $ by Title

CARES Act Dollars Allocated by Federal Formula Supported High Poverty School Districts
Per student ESSER funding distribution via Title 1, by poverty quartiles

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center’s School Funding Model.
The Less Good News: Allocation of $200 Million by the State

• About $25 million went to charter schools and intermediate units—we do not analyze that allocation

• We focus on the remaining $174 million
  • The state could have used the Basic Education Formula (BEF)
  • Instead, it gave $120 thousand to each district (that’s $60 million used up)
  • ...and distributed the rest based on “ADM” (average daily membership)—number of (unweighted students)
District with High Shares of Poor Students Shorted

**Few CARES Act Dollars Allocated by the State Supported Districts With the Most Poor Students**

Total CARES funding per quartile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quartile</th>
<th>High Density Poor Students</th>
<th>Low Density Poor Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$36</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>$27</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding if distributed via the BEF formula

Funding as actually distributed

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center's School Funding Model.
Districts With the Most Poor Students Received LESS Per Student Funding Allocated by the State Formula Than Any Other Group of School Districts

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center's School Funding Model.
District with High Shares of Black Students Shorted

School Districts With the Most Black Students Would Have Received Much More Funding Using the BEF Formula
Total CARES funding per quartile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quartile</th>
<th>CARES $ if distributed via the BEF formula</th>
<th>CARES funding as actually distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$34</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center’s School Funding Model.
Districts with High Share of Black Students on a Per-Student Basis

Few CARES Act Dollars Allocated by the State Formula Per Student Supported Districts With the Most Black Students

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center's School Funding Model.
District with High Shares of Hispanic Students Shorted

School Districts With the Most Hispanic Students Would Have Received Much More Funding Using the BEF Formula
Total CARES funding per quartile

CARES $ if distributed via the BEF formula
CARES funding as actually distributed

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center’s School Funding Model.
Districts with High Share of Hispanic Students on a Per-Student Basis

Few CARES Act Dollars Allocated through the State Formula Per Student Supported Districts With the Most Hispanic Students

Source: Data analysis from Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center's School Funding Model.
Conclusion

• Hard to believe that, in 2020, these funds would be distributed backwards

• If the state gets more funding for K-12 that it allocates, it should not make the same mistake

• An Appendix table has information on school districts for each county—actual $ received vs. if BEF had been used