

DOES MONEY MATTER IN EDUCATION?

Third edition (January 2025)

The following is a selection of key papers and reports discussed in the third edition of “[Does Money Matter in Education?](#)”, published by the Albert Shanker Institute in 2025. The list is mostly limited to analyses of the impact of school funding on student outcomes published over the past 15 or so years. The full report discusses many dozens of additional papers and reports on a variety of finance-related topics.

The list is divided into two sections: 1) meta-analyses and multi-state studies; and 2) single state studies. Within each section, publications appear alphabetically by author. The URLs for each publication were active as of December 2024.

Meta-analyses and multi-state studies

- Abott, C., Kogan, V., Lavertu, S., & Peskowitz, Z. (2020). [School district operational spending and student outcomes: Evidence from tax elections in seven states](#). *Journal of Public Economics*, 183, 104142.
- Brunner, E., Hyman, J., & Ju, A. (2020). [School finance reforms, teachers' unions, and the allocation of school resources](#). *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 102(3), 473-489.
- Candelaria, C. A., & Shores, K. A. (2019). [Court-ordered finance reforms in the adequacy era: Heterogeneous causal effects and sensitivity](#). *Education Finance and Policy*, 14(1), 31–60.
- Dewey, D., Fahle, E., Kane, T. J., Reardon, S. F., Staiger, D. O. (2024). [Federal pandemic relief and academic recovery](#). Cambridge, MA: Center for Education Policy and Research, Harvard University.
- Goldhaber, D., & Falkan, G. (2024). [ESSER and student achievement: Assessing the impacts of the largest one-time federal investment in K12 schools](#). CALDER Working Paper No. 301-0624.
- Handel, D. V., & Hanushek, E. A. (2024). [Contexts of Convenience: Generalizing from Published Evaluations of School Finance Policies](#). *Evaluation Review*, 48(3).
- Jackson, C. K., Johnson, R. C., & Persico, C. (2016). [The Effects of School Spending on Educational and Economic Outcomes: Evidence from School Finance Reforms](#). *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(1), 157-218.
- Jackson, C. K., & Mackevicius, C. L. (2023). [What impacts can we expect from school spending policy? Evidence from evaluations in the US](#). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 16(1), 412-446.
- Jackson, C. K., Wigger, C., & Xiong, H. (2021). [Do school spending cuts matter? Evidence from the Great Recession](#). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 13(2), 304-335.
- Lafortune, J., Rothstein, J., & Schanzenbach, D. W. (2018). [School finance reform and the distribution of student achievement](#). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 10(2), 1-26.
- Miller, C. L. (2018). [The effect of education spending on student achievement: Evidence from property values and school finance rules](#). *Proceedings. Annual Conference on Taxation and Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the National Tax Association*, 111, 1–121.
- Rauscher, E., & Shen, Y. (2022). [Variation in the relationship between school spending and achievement: Progressive spending is efficient](#). *American Journal of Sociology*, 128(1), 189-223.
- Rothstein, J., & Schanzenbach, D. W. (2022). [Does money still matter? Attainment and earnings effects of post-1990 school finance reforms](#). *Journal of Labor Economics*, 40(S1), S141-S178.

Single state studies

- Baron, E. J., Hyman, J., & Vasquez, B. (2024). [Public school funding, school quality, and adult crime](#). *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 1-46.
- Candelaria, C., Sun, M., Knight, D., Almasi, P., Liu, A., & Kabourek, S. (2023). [School finance reform implementation and impacts on resource allocation: A case study of funding formula changes in Washington State](#). Paper presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Deke, J. (2003). [A Study of the Impact of Public School Spending on Postsecondary Educational Attainment Using Statewide School District Refinancing in Kansas](#). *Economics of Education Review*, 22(3), 275-284.

- Downes, T. A. (2004). “[School Finance Reform and School Quality: Lessons from Vermont](#),” in *Helping Children Left Behind: State Aid and the Pursuit of Educational Equity*, ed. J. Yinger. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Downes, T. A., Zabel, J., & Ansel, D. (2009). [Incomplete Grade: Massachusetts Education Reform at 15](#). Boston, MA: MassINC.
- Fan, Q., & Liang, J. (2020). [The effects of California’s school finance reform: Empirical evidence from the Local Control Funding Formula \(LCFF\)](#). *Journal of Education Finance*, 46(2), 140-157.
- Figlio, D. N. (2004). “[Funding and Accountability: Some Conceptual and Technical Issues in State Aid Reform](#),” in *Helping Children Left Behind: State Aid and the Pursuit of Educational Equity*, ed. J. Yinger. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 87-111.
- Gigliotti, P., & Sorensen, L. C. (2022). [Illusory effects of performance management: the case of contracts for excellence in New York school districts](#). *Public Management Review*, 24(3), 327–349.
- Guryan, J. (2001). [Does Money Matter? Estimates from Education Finance Reform in Massachusetts](#), Working Paper No. 8269. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Hyman, J. (2017). [Does money matter in the long run? Effects of school spending on educational attainment](#). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9(4), 256–280.
- Johnson, R. (2023). [School funding effectiveness: Evidence from California’s local control funding formula](#). Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.
- Johnson, R. C., & Tanner, S. (2018). [Money and freedom: The impact of California’s school finance reform on academic achievement and the composition of district spending](#) (*Getting Down To Facts II*). Palo Alto, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education.
- Kreisman, D. & Steinberg, M. (2019). [The effect of increased funding on student achievement: Evidence from Texas’s small district adjustment](#). *Journal of Public Economics*, 176, 118-141.
- Lafortune, J., (2021). [Targeted K–12 funding and student outcomes: Evaluating the Local Control Funding Formula](#) (Policy Brief). San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.
- Lee, J. H., & Fuller, B. (2022). [Does progressive finance alter school organizations and raise achievement? The case of Los Angeles](#). *Educational Policy*, 36(3), 587-623.
- Lee, J., & Fuller, B. (2017). [How decentralizing school finance may narrow achievement gaps](#) (working paper). Berkeley, CA: Institute of Human Development.
- Leuven, E., Lindahl, M., Oosterbeek, H., & Webbink, D. (2007). [The Effect of Extra Funding for Disadvantaged Pupils on Achievement](#). *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 89(4), 721-736.
- Nguyen-Hoang, P. & Yinger, J. (2014). [Education Finance Reform, Local Behavior, and Student Performance in Massachusetts](#). *Journal of Education Finance*, 39(4), 297-322.
- Rauscher, E. (2020). [Does money matter more in the country? Education funding reductions and achievement in Kansas, 2010–2018](#). *AERA open*, 6(4), 2332858420963685.
- Roy, J. (2011). [Impact of School Finance Reform on Resource Equalization and Academic Performance: Evidence from Michigan](#). *Education Finance and Policy*, 6(2), 137-167.

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