Attacking the K-12 Cybersecurity Challenge
Sterling Lloyd
Assistant Director, Education Week Research Center
Quality Counts: The State of K-12 Finance 2019

Expert Presenter:

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Staff Writer, Education Week
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
QUALITY COUNTS 2019

GRADING THE STATES
School Finance

EDUCATION WEEK
RESEARCH CENTER
Perennial Issue Gains Steam
2019 EDUCATION REPORT CARD: Data Released in Three Installments

♦ Installment 1: Chance for Success
  • Grades states on educational opportunities from cradle-to-career (January 2019)

♦ Installment 2: School Finance
  • Provides in-depth analysis of spending and equity indicators (June 2019)

♦ Installment 3: K-12 Achievement and Overall Grades
  • Focuses on student achievement and cumulative results across all three graded categories
Comprehensive Analysis

♦ Report card
  • The Education Week Research Center provides grades and indicators, highlights top performers

♦ Behind the numbers
  • Explaining the indicators and patterns in the data

♦ Complicated and contentious debates
  • Education Week journalists examine the connection between money and K-12 quality
Quality Counts:
A unique marriage between research and journalism

♦ State of the States Report Card
  • This installment highlights eight distinct finance indicators
  • Grades evaluate both overall spending and equity

♦ A closer look at state results
  • What can the data tell us about high-performers, low-performers, and states that have improved?
STATE OF THE STATES
National and State Overview

♦ Overall finance grades
♦ Spending
♦ Equity
♦ Key takeaways across the metrics
Quality Counts grades states on eight indicators examining two distinct aspects of school finance:

**Spending**: state investment in education, pegged to relevant benchmarks

**Equity**: how education dollars are distributed within a state

### National Grade

C

### Top states

- Wyoming
- New York
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- Maryland

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<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A -</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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### Bottom states

- Arizona
- Nevada
- Idaho

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<td>Idaho</td>
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Dismal Spending Results
Grades Point to Widespread Failure

- Wyoming gets best spending grade with an A (95.6)
- Arizona ranks last with an F (38.1)
- In all, 25 states receive grades of F
  - That finding continues a long-standing pattern
  - Six states and D.C. earn grades of A or A- and illustrate the potential for stronger results
Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states lead the pack

Top States

- Wyoming: 95.6
- New York: 93.6
- Vermont: 93.2
- New Jersey: 92.6
- District of Columbia: 91.1
- Connecticut: 91.1
- Alaska: 90.9
- Pennsylvania: 86.6
- Rhode Island: 86.5
- Maine: 84.4
PER-PUPIL SPENDING

Adjusted for regional cost differences

![Map showing per-pupil spending adjusted for regional cost differences across the United States. The map ranges from $0 to $20,540.](image-url)
SPENDING ABOVE U.S. AVERAGE

% of students in districts spending above average

Top States

- Connecticut: 100.0%
- District of Columbia: 100.0%
- Hawaii: 100.0%
- Maryland: 100.0%
- New Jersey: 100.0%
- New York: 100.0%
- Rhode Island: 100.0%
- Wyoming: 100.0%

Percent of students in districts spending above U.S. average
Higher Grades for Equity
Florida ranks first for finance equity

Equity Score Top 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>89.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
California made the largest strides from 2018 to 2019 gaining 3.3 points

♦ Washington was the only other state to gain more than two points

♦ Four states declined by more than a point
  • Alaska (-2.9)
  • West Virginia (-1.9)
  • Wisconsin (-1.6)
  • Maine (-1.3)
Wyoming has been the top state for school finance over the past decade or so

- Balances spending with equity
- Finishes first for spending and seventh for equity
- Ranks high for per-pupil spending and the percent of taxable resources devoted to education
Many states that rank high for spending are in the bottom-tier for equity (and vice versa)

- Florida is first for equity but 45 for spending
- Vermont is third for spending but 48 for equity
♦ Despite its relatively solid B+ grade for equity, the nation has room for improvement when it comes to investment in high-poverty schools

- Alaska is the only state providing higher funding for property-poor districts than for their more affluent counterparts
- New school-by-school spending data could shed additional light on equity
Across the states, the commitment to school funding varies widely

- The percent of total taxable resources spent on education ranges from 5.4 percent in Vermont to 2.3 percent in North Carolina.
- This indicator provides an intuitive understanding of the degree to which states make school funding a priority.
- Findings may reflect both political will and structural factors.
California’s gains were fueled by major increases in per-pupil spending and the percent of total taxable resources spent on education.

- The percent of students in districts with per-pupil expenditures at or above the U.S. average also increased from 23.8 percent in the 2018 analysis to 37.4 in this year’s report.
- California is still below the national mark of 40.1 percent and far behind the leading states on this indicator, but it has made solid improvement.
Best Practices to Take Control of Your Spend

Automate and integrate your mileage-tracking, expense, and invoice processes

Put your budgets front and center

Make compliant decisions a breeze
Journalism in Quality Counts
Does Money Matter and Are Taxpayers Willing to Pay for Schools?

♦ Student outcomes: Does money really matter?
  • A look at the latest research
    – How should schools spend their money?
    – The bang for the buck

♦ Public sentiment on K-12 funding
  • Taxes versus funding, competing priorities
Why Should We Know Whether Money Matters?

• Political implications
• Federal, state, local calls for more efficient spending
• Public distrust of taxpayer spending
• Spending varies dramatically
• So do academic outcomes
• Are they correlated?
Flaws with the old studies

• Old studies used correlation methodology
• Lack of longitudinal spending and academic data
• Studies are expensive
Newly Available Data on School Spending

- Longitudinal spending and academic trends
- Publicly reported school-by-school spending
- The cost-effectiveness requirement from Institute of Education Sciences, foundations, and policymakers
Distortions in School Spending

- Teacher pay is based on tenure rather than performance
- Categorical spending for federal, state, and local funds
- Fixed and skyrocketing costs such as pensions and healthcare
States’ funding formulas are outdated
At least 22 states still spend below pre-recession levels
States spend $13,000 on low-income students, but should spend more like $20,000 on those students
~Bruce Baker
Several New Studies Say Money Makes a Difference

• School construction
• School funding formulas
• Tax levies
• Northwestern Review of Research

“While one can poke holes in each individual study, the robustness of the patterns across a variety of settings is compelling evidence of a real positive causal relationship between increased school spending and student outcomes on average,” Jackson concluded.
Politicians, journalists repeat the claim that money does not matter all the time.

Politicians and the courts struggle to define “equitable” and “adequate” spending.

Practitioners struggle to communicate how money matters to the general public.

There remains widespread public confusion about how money is spent.
Shift in public sentiment for public schools

- Americans have historically been hostile toward more taxes
- Except when it comes to public schools
- For the first time since 1968, less than half the nation’s voters felt their taxes were too high, according to a 2018 Pew Research poll
Teacher Strikes

• Widely publicized strikes have changed the way we talk about school spending
• Expanded conversation from teacher pay to other K-12 needs
• 2020 presidential candidates want to pump more money into public schools
• Teachers took their movement to state capitol buildings this year
Tax Reform Initiatives

- Tax the rich?
  - Maine
  - Oregon
- Close corporate loopholes?
  - Arizona
- Cut property taxes?
  - Texas
Fiscal Landscape This Year

- There’s more money to spend
- States have to decide whether to spend or save
- Districts have to decide whether (and how) to give teachers raises
- Are public schools ready for the next recession?
From *Education Week* and
The Education Week Research Center

**Quality Counts 2019**
Interactive state tables and charts
Online grading map

National and State Highlights Reports
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4 Ways K-12 Schools Can Increase Spend Transparency and Efficiency
One Automated Integrated Solution

TRAVEL

EXPENSE

INVOICE
Capture spending – wherever and whenever it happens

Aberdeen Report Expense processing costs by 60% and improve compliance by 44%
Increase Transparency, Control and Efficiency

Capture
Integrate
Control
Compliance
Transforming travel and expense requires a comprehensive approach

Gain new insights
Foster centralized data collection
Connect and integrate spending with your ERP
Intelligent Spend Management

Increase productivity, compliance, eliminate waste and connect all employee-driven spend

Automation helps manage part of the process, but won’t provide one unified view of your spending.

Take advantage of all the ways you can recognize benefits beyond automation—to really optimize your company’s spend management.
“We’ve processed over 30 million in payment the last 3 months with full visibility and control! Now we have the tools to pinpoint problem areas and just finished our first operating quarter reporting”

Derrek Blair, Rochester City School District
Seeing all of your spend seems daunting, but it’s easier than you think.

Spend management isn’t just about travel, expenses, or invoicing. It’s about embracing a connected ecosystem that incorporates your school districts current processes and gives your employees simple and secure access with the tools they want to use. Through the SAP® Concur® platform, we enable you to pull all of these components together to build a complete picture of spend, while helping you reduce risk, improve efficiency, and plan better for the future. Because the future of our K-12 students shouldn’t be limited by poor spend management.

Learn more at concur.com
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Quality Counts: The State of K-12 Finance 2019

Suggested Reading from *Education Week*:

1st Installment in the 2019 edition of Quality Counts: *Quality Counts 2019: Chance for Success*
Which states do best job in assuring bright prospects for success over the course of a lifetime? The Quality Counts Chance-for-Success Index offers detailed answers.

2nd Installment in the 2019 edition of Quality Counts: *Quality Counts 2019: School Finance*
The second installment of *Education Week*’s annual *Quality Counts* series examines how much the nation and the states spend on public schools and how fairly that money is spread around.