

Build 4 for 10am section: Progress Report for School + State FP Community Partners

Anyone can comment on this Google Doc. Jack and Nellie can edit. [Updated for Melanie Strout](#)

Assign random pairs to questions below. Work together in person and/or remotely to co-author your responses in a Google Document that anyone can comment on, with links to any public Google Sheets or published Datawrapper charts you create. **DUE Sunday Oct 12th 9pm**, 5 pts.

Randomized Student Pairs	Your Co-Authored Public Google Doc
Pair A: Ryan & Loretta	link
Pair B: Nina M & Rachel	link
Pair C: Satya & Joe	link
Pair D: Nick & Ashley	link

Research questions we received from partner Melanie Strout, School + State Finance:

1) How much do Connecticut public schools spend per student overall in comparison to MA and other states?

[We found different sources on public school spending per pupil by state. Your advice?](#)

a) [Education Data Initiative](#), figure 1, updated 2025, but actual year of data not given.

CT = \$25,023 spending per student. Source: National Center for Education Statistics NM

b) US Dept of Ed, Nat Ctr for Ed Statistics, [Digest of Education, 2020-21, table 236.75](#)

CT = \$23,988 spending per student (see footnotes about what appears in "Total") R

c) US Dept of Ed, Institute of Education Sciences, [Rev & Exp 2022-23 report, Table 4](#)

CT = \$24,837 spending per student (see footnotes about what appears in "Total") L

Sample preliminary charts by [Rachel and Nina M](#) and by [Loretta and Ryan](#)

- Data collection costs money

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2) How does CT public school district spending per student vary across the state? How does spending vary by CT town or school district demographics, income, and property wealth? How do demographic and economic patterns in CT spending compare to MA and other states?

[First steps: Find recent & reliable public school spending per student in each CT district](#)

[We found](#) CT Dept of Ed, EdSight, [Per Pupil Expenditures by district, 2023-24](#)

[Can you respond to some of our unanswered questions about the data above?](#)

a) Why do some districts report \$0 or NA in some spending categories? Nick

b) Should we be concerned about large differences in subcategory spending (such as transportation) when comparing school districts? Jack

- The rural area is more likely to utilize transportation
- Each district has different transportation requirements
 - It might not be the most necessary unless you are particularly looking at transportation spending

Sample preliminary charts on median spending by [Nick and Ashley](#); [Satya and Joe](#)

3) How does public school district spending per student vary by cost of living in CT, MA, and other states?

First steps: Find the most recent & reliable data on the **cost of living in each US state**

We found different sources to make comparisons by states or areas. Your advice?

a) Missouri Econ Res & Info Center, [Composite Cost of Living Index, 2025 Q2](#)

CT = 112.7, based on Council for Community & Economic Research (C2ER) survey Ryan

- What percentage of the state budget is being spent on education (could be a potential way to look at this question)

b) [US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index](#), and [CPI Inflation Calculator](#)

But NOT published for individual states. Instead, either [regions or metropolitan areas](#) JD

c) US Bureau of Economic Analysis, [Regional Price Parities by State and Metro Area](#)

CT = 103.7, for [Regional Price Parities for all items, 2023](#) JD

4) How does the source of education funding – local, state, and federal – vary across CT districts? How does CT compare to MA and other states?

First steps: Find most recent & reliable data on the **percentage of local, state, and federal sources of public school funding in each US State.**

We found diff sources that display data in different ways. Your advice?

- Local funding might be from the municipality
- How states raise money might be different– makes it difficult to compare states like Louisiana and Connecticut
- When comparing state by state, you can look at the student needs

a) [Education Data Initiative](#), figure 4, updated 2025, but actual year of data not given.

CT = \$2,077 federal, \$23,824 state + local (combined, not separate) Nina

b) US Dept of Ed, Institute of Education Sciences, [Rev & Exp 2022-23 report, Table 1](#)

Total sources of revenue — local, state, federal — for each state, but NOT per student Jack

5) Racial funding gap: How does spending per student vary across CT districts with different levels of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) student enrollment (0-25%, 25-50%, etc.)? How does CT compare to MA and other states? If there is a gap, how much more funding would be needed to equalize spending in CT?

First step: recent & reliable data on student enrollment by race in each MA district
We found [MA Dept of Elem & Secondary Ed, Enrollment Data, 2023-24](#) by district/race
[Data download, calculation, and sort by Percent BIPOC students](#) by Satya and Joe

Can you respond to some of our unanswered questions?

How do the BIPOC enrollment percentages in each district compare to the racial demographics of the district's overall population? Are districts with higher residential diversity more segregated in their school populations? Joe

Look at the growth over time in certain districts? Remind people to refresh on the desegregation of Hartford schools.

- If you are working on this question, look into the Sheff vs Oneil case

6) Multilingual learner funding: How does spending per multilingual learner vary across CT districts? How does CT compare to MA and other states?

First steps: Find recent enrollments of multilingual learners in each MA district
We found [MA DESE > School & Dist Profiles > Enrollments > Selected Populations](#)
[Data download, calc. and sort](#) by Ashley and Nick Ashley

Can you respond to some of our unanswered questions?

a) What is the difference between “English Learners” and “First Language Not English”? Does CT EdSight make similar distinctions?

- First Language Not English students are not included in the multilingual weight in the formula
- First Language– English is not the first language, but the student is proficient in English

Next steps from Jack

See MA district spending per student data in [DESE > Sch & Dist Profiles](#)

Think about ways to visualize the relationship between enrollment & spending

7) Special education funding: How does spending per special education learner vary across CT districts? How does CT compare to MA and other states?

No questions assigned at this point