

Goals: 3 pages, 3 images (1-2 being statistics)

Message:

Education Funding Off the Rails: Poverty Gap Growing Each Year

According to [a study](#) conducted in June by the National Report Card, the gap of funding between impoverished and affluent districts comes to a shockingly clear light in how truly atrocious the issue is. A few details included in the report are: fourteen states have regressive funding, nineteen states have flat funding that fails to provide any funding increase, and only four states provide sufficient higher funding for poor school districts.

While many people attribute educational funding issues to states not devoting the state budget to school funding, this is only [true for four states](#). The more common situation is that educational funding is diverted in higher amounts to more affluent, caucasian districts. In the last several years, it has become blaringly obvious that education funding is fundamentally flawed and unequal; requiring sever reform

With conservative legislature at the helm of education funding, policies such as [Title 1 Portability](#), students and teachers in underprivileged districts are facing massive losses in funding. Already struggling with funding in low-income and impoverished areas, Title 1 Portability will only allow for more students to be diverted to affluent districts, leaving the struggling districts even more crippled.

That is not to say that liberal legislation is not to be held accountable for many of the current faults in the system. No Child Left Behind, the indisputably flawed legislation which dictates many school policies and procedures was a liberal policy.

In a speech given to the press in January in response to a Title 1 Portability proposal, liberal Secretary of Education Arne Duncan adamantly opposed the any proposal. His reasoning was that this legislation would cripple low-income districts, making education “[separate and unequal](#)”.

However, Duncan’s and other liberal stagnation has led to the criticism of the party and its over-reaching federal control. Duncan responded to this accusation saying, “We stepped into a leadership void, we stepped into dysfunction, because kids and teachers were being hurt. And we’ve done the best job we can. I’m sure we’ve done it imperfectly. I actually think we’ve done a pretty darn good job with it.”

On a more localized scale, funding per student in each state is drastically unreasonable for several states. California, for example, with one of the highest costs of living, spends \$9,220 per student. In comparison, New Jersey spends \$17,572 on each students and devouts larger funds to poor districts.

The need for reform is evident. The more unsure area is in which direction does it need to go and who should take the lead. The answer is the district's. Those in the thick of education should decide what’s best for it. What’s most important now is giving districts the resources they need in order to meet the needs of the students and improve the conditions of learning.

One group set on this ideology is a compilation of 115 different education organizations, known as the [Committee of Education Funding](#). The CEF [wrote a letter](#) to House and Senate education committees in February detailing a multitude of faults in current K-12 funding and the negative implications of said legislation should it go unchanged. Only a small effort, but an effort none the less. Small instances of demands for change are setting the gears in motion for a grander change that is beyond needed.

The chinks in the armour of education are shocking in numbers for a field so important. We, as citizens, often get caught up in the politics of legislation and neglect to think about it's true implications and on whom. If there were to be a shift in funding for impoverished districts, more poor, ethnic students could get the funding for their needs to be met. The importance of racial and fiscal equality is everywhere. Once it's addressed in