

*Equity in Education  
Series*

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS' NEEDS

*With a focus on children from low-income families,  
multilingual learners, students with disabilities and others:  
How can public education funding best support them?*

October 4, 2023



# LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Vision Coalition is a private-public partnership composed of a broad range of Delawareans working together to improve public education



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# STUDENT SUCCESS 2025 RECOMMENDS:



1. Allocating funding to respond to individual student needs
2. Updating our system so funds follow students
3. Allowing students to take courses across schools, online and in higher education
4. Increasing equity and flexibility
5. Building more transparent and efficient systems



# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

## SO FAR?

We learned that funding—when targeted at student needs and invested in effective ways—**can have a big impact on student performance and long term outcomes.**



Delaware's **Opportunity Funding** allocates **\$616 per student**, or **roughly 3-9%** on top of the average spending. Most other states allocate a weight of **between 25-50%** on top of base funding for the same student groups.

# THEMES OF AIR REPORT

**AIR INDEPENDENT  
FUNDING ASSESSMENT -  
TO BE RELEASED  
DEC. 2023 - JAN. 2024**

## Principles of a Funding System:

- Adequacy
- Equity
- Wealth Neutrality

Learn more:

[bit.ly/VCFundingBackground](https://bit.ly/VCFundingBackground)

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS' NEEDS

## EQUITY IN EDUCATION SERIES

### Poll

*Respond to the poll on  
your screen*

# AGENDA

- Introduction
- National Landscape
- Q&A
- Delaware Context

# **SUPPORTING STUDENTS' NEEDS**

## **EXPERT DISCUSSION WITH LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE**

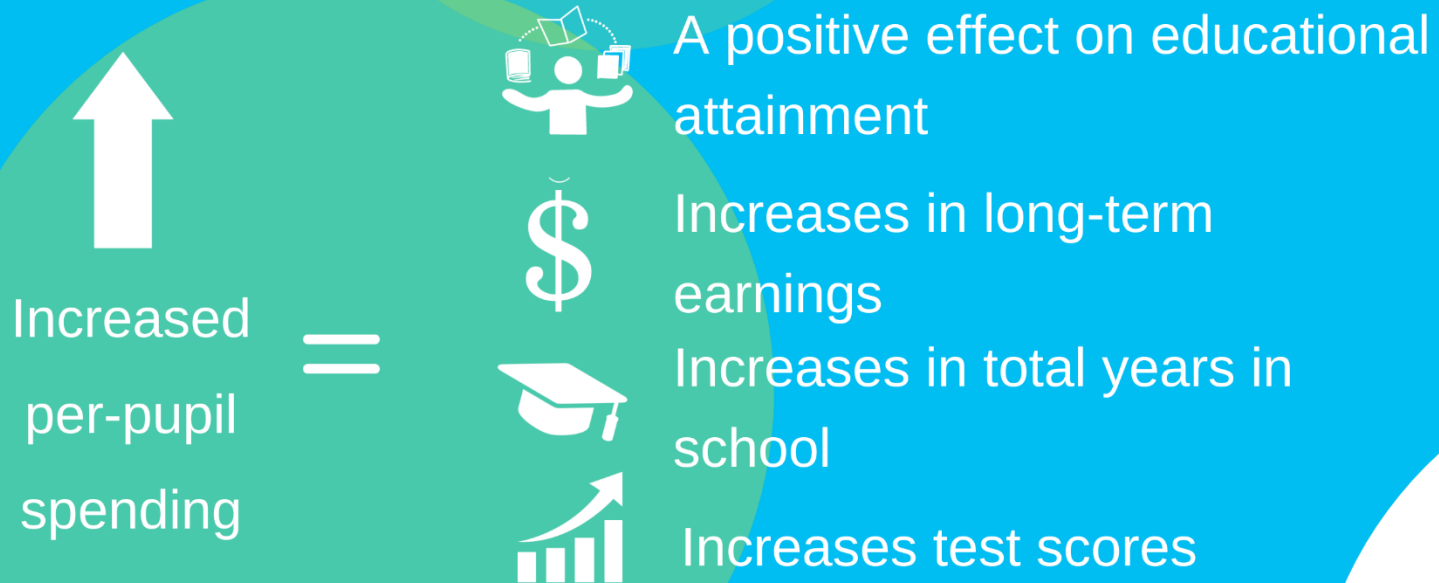


**MICHAEL GRIFFITH**



# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON FUNDING THESE POPULATIONS?

## Policy Impacts Related to Increased Spending



# Funding High-Need Student Groups

Michael Griffith – Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst

October 2023

# High-Need Student Groups

- Traditionally include:
  - At-risk
  - English language learners
  - Special education students
  - Gifted & Talented
- Some state also fund these student groups:
  - Students experiencing homelessness
  - Foster youths
  - Migrant/mobile students

# State Education Expenditures

## 2021-22 School Year

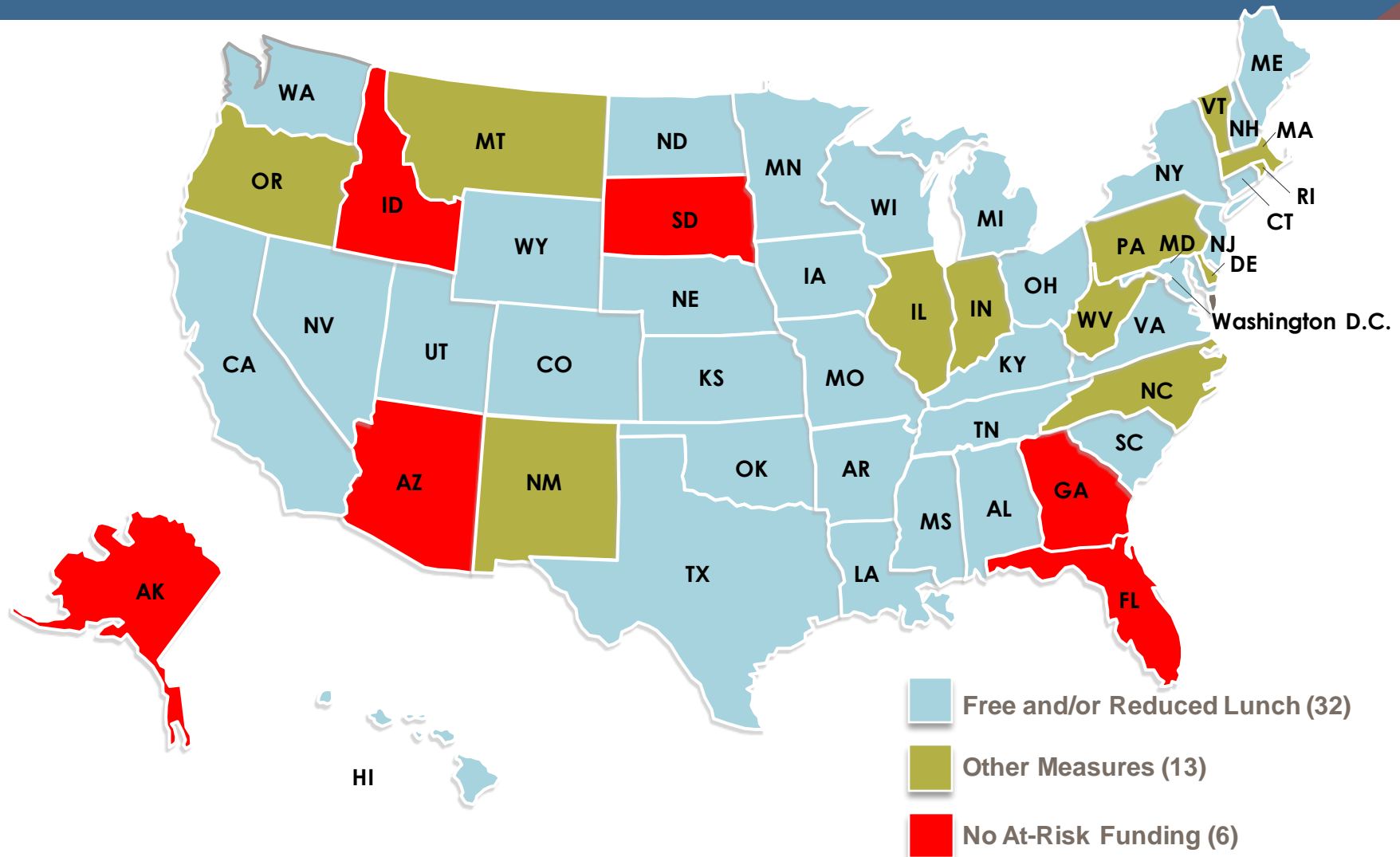
State	Per Pupil Expenditures
Delaware	\$18,331
New York	\$28,963
New Jersey	\$23,890
Massachusetts	\$22,712
Pennsylvania	\$19,412
Maryland	\$16,893

Source: NEA Rankings & Estimates - 2023



# State Funding Formulas

## Economically Disadvantaged Students



Source: Education Commission of the States and LPI research

# At-Risk Concentration Funding

- Some states provide additional funding to school districts that have a high concentration of poverty
- Research has shown that students who live in high-poverty areas need additional supports
- Currently 26 states provide some form of concentration funding

Source: EdBuild

# English Language Learners

- 49 states provide public schools with additional funding for ELL students
- Dual Funding: Some states allow for a student to receive both ELL and At-risk funding

# Other High-Need Student Groups

- **Gifted & Talented** (36 States)
- **Students experiencing homelessness** (5 States)
- **Foster youths**
- **Migrant students**

Source: Education Commission of the States & LPI research



# QUESTIONS?

## ASK THE EXPERTS

# **SUPPORTING STUDENTS' NEEDS**

## **DELAWARE EDUCATION LEADERS: CURRENT LANDSCAPE AND OPPORTUNITIES**



**MARGIE LÓPEZ WAITE**



**DORRELL GREEN**

# DELAWARE CONTEXT

## OPPORTUNITY FUNDING

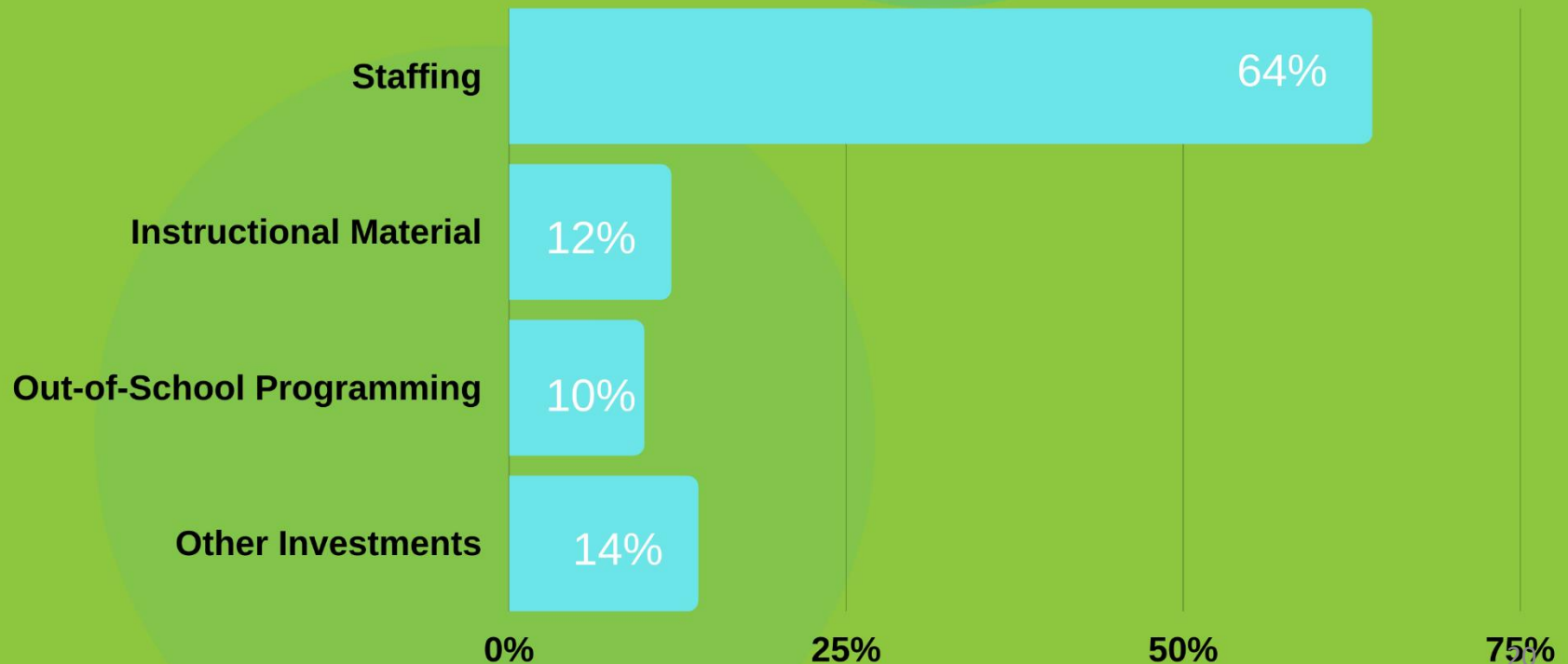


**OPPORTUNITY FUNDING PROVIDED  
\$616 PER STUDENT FROM LOW-  
INCOME AND MULTILINGUAL LEARNER  
STUDENTS IN 2021-22.**

**OPPORTUNITY FUNDING EQUATES TO  
ONLY AN ADDITIONAL 3% PER  
STUDENT.**

# RECENT INVESTMENTS

- Opportunity Funds
- District leaders report that the majority of funding was spent on increasing staffing, creating or scaling up pilot programs since funds are ongoing





# QUESTIONS?

## ASK THE EXPERTS

# WRAP UP

- Thank you!
- Recording will be sent to VC email list and posted on website
- Stay tuned for upcoming events, including release of independent assessment of funding system