



# School Funding

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# The Problem - Underfunded/Allocation of Funds

## Inequitable

- Property taxes
- Disparities related to community wealth
- Disadvantaged area = disadvantaged schools

## Quality of Education

- Achievement gap
  - Socioeconomic status (SES gap)
- Low funds = minimal/poor resources

## Teacher Shortages

- Low salaries
- Insufficient support and resources
- Long hours and high stress
  - Loop
- 23% of American teachers left their jobs in 2022-2023

**SCHOOL  
FUNDING**

# Historical Context - The 1700's, 1800's, and 1900's

## Before Revolutionary War

- New England colonies used property tax to fund schools



## Post Revolutionary War

- Tenth Amendment
- **1800's : public schools became more popular**
  - "Common School Movement"
  - Communities began to establish schools through local resources
- **1900's : states became more involved**
  - Individual state income tax + state sales tax
  - Additional Federal acts

# Laws and Regulations - Local and State Governments

## State funding formulas

- Allocation of federal funds to school districts
- Considerations : student enrollment, demographics, local property tax revenue and district characteristics
- SOME states have designed formulas to provide greater support to disadvantaged districts

## Local governments and school boards

- Authority over certain aspects within their districts
- Budgeting, expenditures, fundraising, etc



# The Policy Actors

## Official

- U.S. Department of Education
  - Administer federal education programs/funds
- Congress
  - Passes laws, budgets, and reauthorization of acts
- State Education Agencies (SEAs)
  - Oversees funding distributions
- The Courts
  - Brown v. Board of Education
  - School choice
- School Boards
  - Elected or appointed

## Unofficial

- Parent-teacher associations (PTAs)
  - Advocate for increased funding, educational opportunities, etc
- Public opinion/media
  - Discussions
- Think tanks
  - Research
- Nonprofit organizations
  - Advocacy

# Sustainability

## Economic

- Budget stability
  - Predictability of economic conditions
- Property values
  - Housing markets and tax rates
- Cost efficiency
  - Resource management
  - Accountability in spending

## Equity

- Distribution
  - Access for low-wealth and high-wealth districts

SUSTAINABILITY



# Current Policies - Federal Funding/Laws

## ESEA 1965

- Support education programs for disadvantaged students and professional development for teachers

## Title I (apart of ESEA)

- Financial assistance for schools with high numbers of economically disadvantaged students to support achievement + reduce gaps

## Title II (apart of ESEA)

- Funding for educator recruitment, preparation, and professional development activities

## IDEA 1975

- Students with disabilities receive appropriate public education + provides states with funding to meet the needs of these students

## School Choice

- Parents can choose options other than public school
- Charter, private, magnet, etc

# Solutions

## Teacher Retention

- Higher salaries
- Incentivize to work in high-need areas
  - Competitive salaries, benefits, and development opportunities

## Greater Federal Funding

- Government provides 10.5% of funding for K-12 schools
- Success of the nation

## Equitable Funding Formulas

- Prioritize more resources towards districts with higher needs
- Low income students, English language

**School  
Funding**

**INCREASED**



# Works Cited

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