



Perspectives on Education Funding

Content Standards and/or Skills:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.7 Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.8 Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.6 Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence

Objective/Desired Outcome:

Students will be able to collect and analyze data to form an opinion about the funding of education in New York State.

Project Options:

Create a research paper on education funding and it's affect on the students in your school

Create an informative news article detailing current state of education in NY

Create a documentary video showing how insufficient budgets from the state are hurting students

A Tale of Two Schools: Compare your school with another school in NY that receives more or less funding than your school. How are students' opportunities and outcomes different?

Focus Questions:

Does money matter in Education? Are schools in NYS funded equitably? How does unequal funding affect the students in your school/ or in other schools?

Materials/Resources:

<http://blogs.census.gov/2012/06/21/education-funding-where-do-schools-get-their-money-how-do-they-spend-it/>

AQE Tool Kit: <http://www.aqeny.org/campaigns/organizer-toolkit-2013/>

Education Funding 101: <http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Education-Funding.pdf>

NY Government 101: <http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/NY-Government-101.pdf>

AQE Report: <http://www.aqeny.org/policy/>

A Tale of Two States; Equity Outperforms Inequity: http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Tale-of-Two-States-Report_FINAL.pdf

Vocabulary: *Foundation Aid (FA), Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE), Common Core, Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)*

Plan of Instruction

- Activator:** *(Students may express their opinions via a whole class discussion, small group discussions or in writing, journal responses)* If you could design the best education system in the world, what would every student in every school have access to?

Mini-Lesson: *How do schools get money?* [Schools get money from property taxes on the homes in that



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district, State Funding & Grants.] *Why do some schools have more and others schools have less? Is this system fair? Should all schools have access to the same amount of money to spend per pupil?* [Reference: Education Funding 101: <http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Education-Funding.pdf>]

- Practice:** Provide students with articles related to Education Funding. Read the articles and analyze the graphs. Have students draw conclusions on the current state of the Education budget. *What trends have they noticed?* [the amount of money allocated to the schools from the state budget has severely declined over the last few years] *How will these trends effect their school/education?*
- Work Time:** Research.
 1. Have students research the education funding positions of Governor Andrew Coumo, Assembly-Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Republican Majority Coalition Leader, Jeffrey Klein, Independent Democratic Conference, NYSUT (New York State United Teachers), and the Alliance for Quality Education.
 2. Interview at least 2 education stakeholders in your school (parents, teachers, principals, other students, or the superintendent). Be sure to ask about how the amount of state education aid have impacted your school and school district.
- Closure/Summary:** Using the information you have gathered through research and interviews; formulate your stance on the education budget debate: *Does money matter in education?* (Students can also create their own research question). Students can present their opinions by writing an argumentative essay, writing a news article, creating a video documentary or Writing and performing a skit or play about the effects of the underfunding NY schools.

Lesson Reflection/Next Steps for Learning:

Students can engage in on-going education advocacy for their school district and organize local event. Write a letter to Governor Cuomo and/or the Legislature expressing your opinion on the current state of education and what he should do.

Share your final report with local press & media outlets