

Schools: Each state has its own unique funding formula

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Last year, Stevenson spent close to \$18,800 per student. Waukegan's expenditure? About \$12,600.

And the gap has only been getting wider — here in the suburbs north of Chicago, and in many places across the nation. In the years following the 2008 financial crisis, school districts serving poor communities generally have been hit harder than more affluent districts, according to an Associated Press analysis of local, state and federal education spending.

A rich, poor divide

The result has been a worsening of America's rich schools, poor schools divide — and its racial divide, because many poor districts are also heavily minority. It also perpetuates the perception that the system is rigged in favor of the haves, at the expense of the have-nots — a major driver of America's angst in this election year.

The AP found that aid to local districts from the federal government surged after the economic downturn, as part of the stimulus, but then receded. Schools were left to rely more on state funding that has not bounced back to pre-recession levels. And poorer districts that cannot draw on healthy property tax bases have been left in the lurch.

The effects vary widely across the 50 states. Each has its own unique funding formula.

For example, per-pupil spending in poorer Missouri districts fell behind richer districts in 2013 — the first time in a well over decade.

Most rich districts have seen a steady increase in revenue while poorer districts — such as Louisiana RII, a predominantly white district 80 miles northwest of St. Louis — have seen cuts since 2010. That rural district has started waiting longer to replace textbooks, and it will likely abandon initiatives to distribute new computers and to bring wireless internet into classrooms. Todd Smith, the superintendent, said the district will likely seek a tax increase or a bond sale because there isn't enough money for basic maintenance.

"We find ourselves more and more dipping into our reserves," Smith said.

In Connecticut's largest city, Bridgeport, schools have struggled with cuts in state and federal grants, Superintendent Frances Rabinowitz said. And the gap widens between her district and neighboring, affluent Fairfield County towns with smaller class sizes and students with far fewer needs.

The result? No aides for kindergarten classrooms, or guidance counselors for elementary

'We find ourselves more and more dipping into our reserves.'

Todd Smith

superintendent of a rural school district 80 miles northwest of St. Louis, Mo.

schools, or buses for students at some high schools (they get city bus passes, instead).

"I feel like I am cutting the lifeblood of the system," said Rabinowitz, whose schools are more than 80 percent black or Hispanic. "We're not talking nice things. We're talking what I would consider essentials in trying to move the district forward."

Impact can be long-lasting

The impact can be long-lasting, researchers say. A study for the nonprofit and nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research tracked students enrolled in districts where there was a prolonged increase in school funding.

Students educated in flush times finished more years of school, were less likely to live in poverty as adults, and made about 7.25 percent more in wages.

"The body of evidence is pretty clear that when school districts get more money, good things tend to happen and when they're forced to cut spending, bad things tend to happen," said Kirabo Jackson, one of the report's authors and an associate professor of human development and social policy at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy.

The widening funding gap that favors richer schools in Illinois is an extreme example.

For schools in the poorest 25 percent of Illinois districts, as measured by child poverty rates, per-pupil funding stalled at around \$13,500 in 2014, the most recent year for which full data are available. Meanwhile, per-pupil funding climbed to over \$15,000 in the wealthiest 25 percent.

Alejandra Ocampo, senior class president at Waukegan High School, said the disparities are plain to see.

When her athletic teams would travel to other schools for competitions, the affluence was clear from the minute they pulled up, Ocampo says. And sometimes when those opposing teams would show up to Waukegan, they would hear the chatter: "This is it?" or "Why is their locker room like a dungeon?"

Waukegan District 60's enrollment of roughly 17,000 is nearly 80 percent Hispanic and 15 percent black students, and includes a higher-than-aver-

age percentage of English language learners and children in poverty. The district struggled to meet the needs of its students even before the foreclosure crisis left blocks dotted with empty homes and businesses. Teachers buy fans with their own money to fight the heat at schools like the district's Little Fort Elementary.

State cuts

Over the past five years, the district lost \$43 million in state aid because Illinois cut education funding, according to Gwendolyn Polk, associate superintendent of business and financial services. The proposed budget for the coming year is \$218 million, with a projected deficit of \$7.4 million. The district did its best to keep the cuts from affecting the classroom, which meant putting off regular maintenance and cobbling together funds to deal with emergencies.

When a water pipe began leaking in a classroom, the district was required to remove asbestos around the aged pipes as part of the repairs. Workers ripped open a 6-foot hole, then covered it with a piece of plywood and painted over it.

About 70 percent of students graduate from Waukegan High School in four years, and less than half go on to attend a two-year or four-year college.

"Just because our students are low income here within this district, it doesn't mean they shouldn't have the same opportunities kids in surrounding districts have," said Michelle Lenczuk, a teacher at Little Fort. "They have the same knowledge. They have the same capability to learn. They have the drive. They want to do that."

Stevenson District 125, in contrast, educates students in an area northwest of Chicago that's home to upper-class professionals and corporate headquarters, the kind of districts parents move into in hopes of giving their children a leg up. Adlai Ste-

venson High School resembles a small college, with a manicured campus and more than 120 student clubs. Wide, carpeted hallways house art galleries for displaying student work. Outside a suite of teacher offices, a message on a flat-screen TV congratulates the water polo team on its state championship.

Two-thirds of the students are white and about 22 percent are Asian, with black and Hispanic students making up less than 10 percent of the enrollment. Between 97 and 98 percent of students will go on to college, most of them to four-year schools.

Stevenson has felt minimal impact from state budget cuts, spokesman Jim Conrey said. The district hasn't had to go to referendum to get more property tax revenue since 2002, when a measure passed with 70 percent support.

"We're certainly well aware of what other schools are suffering through right now and we sympathize with them," Conrey said. "We're very lucky in that we're not having to face a lot of the issues that they are."

Matthew Cabrera, a 17-year-old who just finished his junior year at Stevenson, takes a range of Advanced Placement classes and plays violin in the school orchestra. His family moved to the area from the South Side of Chicago when Cabrera was in second grade, and he knows how different Stevenson is from the school he would have attended if they'd stayed.

"I don't think I would have been able to grow as a person as much if I didn't go to Stevenson," Cabrera says.

Waukegan's Alejandra Ocampo plans to study education and Spanish in college this fall. She's proud of where she comes from, but she says some more money would be helpful in ways that go beyond better facilities or more teachers.

"I feel like funding is more of a motivational gift than an actual physical gift," she said. "It's how it makes you feel about yourself."

Fenn reported from New York. Associated Press writers Michael Melia in Hartford, Connecticut, Carolyn Thompson in Buffalo, New York, and Carrie Antlfinger in Lincolnshire, Illinois, also contributed to this report.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Pneumonia diagnosis fuels questions about Clinton's health

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — For weeks, Hillary Clinton dismissed questions about her health as little more than a conspiracy theory, part of a "wacky strategy" cooked up by rival Donald Trump as he embraced an "alternative reality."

Those concerns are now unavoidable, made real by Clinton's abrupt departure Sunday from a 9/11 anniversary ceremony and a video showing the Democratic nominee staggering and eventually slumping forward before being held up by three people as she was helped into a van.

The damage was compounded by the nearly eight hours of silence from Clinton and her team about the health scare, as well as the Sunday evening disclosure she had been diagnosed on Friday with pneumonia.

Clinton's doctor said the 68-year-old former secretary of state "became overheated and dehydrated" at the 9/11 ceremony at ground zero. After an exam at her home in suburban New York, said Dr. Lisa R. Bardack, Clinton "is now rehydrated and recovering nicely."

But less than two months from Election Day, it was a problematic visual for Clinton as she tries to project the strength and vigor needed for one of the world's most demanding jobs. Late Sunday night, she called off plans to travel to California for two days of fundraising, campaign events and an appearance on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show.

Russia-US-brokered Syria cease-fire to start at sunset

BEIRUT — A cease-fire brokered by the United States and Russia is set to begin at sunset on Monday in Syria amid mixed messages of commitment from various rebel factions but with verbal backing by President Bashar Assad's government.

In a stark message to opponents, Assad made a rare public appearance Monday by attending prayers for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha at a mosque in the Damascus suburb of Daraya.

The suburb, previously held by the rebels, surrendered last month and reverted to Damascus' control after four years of government siege.

The cease-fire deal, hammered out between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva on Saturday, allows the Syrian government to continue to strike at the Islamic State group and al-Qaida-linked militants with the Jabhat Fatah al-Sham group, earlier known as the Nusra Front, until the U.S. and Russia take over the task in one week's time.

Rebel factions have expressed deep reservations about the deal.

Obama, Hill leaders meet ahead of federal funding deadline

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is meeting with the top four leaders of Congress ahead of a month's-end deadline to fund the government or face a shutdown, and with money all but gone to address the worsening Zika crisis.

The White House meeting Monday afternoon is likely to focus on an emerging legislative compromise to address both issues. Long-sought provisions to provide money to deal with Zika look likely to be added to a must-pass spending bill to fund the government through Dec. 9.

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MONDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 12	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (SP) (N)				The \$100,000 Pyramid (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (SP) (N)				The \$100,000 Pyramid (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	American Ninja War. "National Finals Week 3" Competitors try the finals course.				Running Wild "Marshawn Lynch" (N)		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory Fall Preview (N)	Big Bang Theory	Mom		Scorpion "Toby or Not Toby"		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory Fall Preview (N)	Big Bang Theory	Mom		Scorpion "Toby or Not Toby"		KIRO News at 11	(35) S. Colbert
9	KGW	(3) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	American Ninja War. "National Finals Week 3" Competitors try the finals course.				Running Wild "Marshawn Lynch" (N)		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour	Modern Family	SGirl "For the Girl Who Has Everything"	Supergirl			KGW News at 10	(35) Two 1/2 Men	(35) King of Hill	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Antiques Rd. "Richmond (Hour Two)"	Oregon Experience "Jewish Frontier"			Nova "15 Years of Terror"		In Our Son's Name	
13	KPDJ	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	So You Think You Can Dance "The Next Generation: Winner Chosen" (SF) (N)				10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	So You Think You Can Dance "The Next Generation: Winner Chosen" (SF) (N)				Law & Order: S.V.U. "Fallacy"		Law & Order: S.V.U.	Grief
20	TBS	(20) American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	The Simpsons
22	KZJQ	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Family Guy		Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) (3:55) NFL Football Pit./Was. (L)		(15) NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco 49ers Site: Levi's Stadium -- Santa Clara, Calif. (L)						Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
30	ESPN2	(30) Poker World Series		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.		SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.	NCAA Football	
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	Nicky Ricky Dicky	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Backstage (N)	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Cloud 9 (2014, Family)	Luke Benward, Dove Cameron.	(40) Liv Maddie		(05) Bunk'd		Backstage	Friends Whenever
34	FAM	(34) The Middle	★ Paul Blart: Mall Cop '09, Comedy	Keir O'Donnell, Jayma Mays, Kevin James.	★ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005, Adventure)	Freddie Highmore, David Kelly, Johnny Depp.	The 700 Club			The 700 Club		The Forgiven	(04) Julianne Moore.
35	FMC	(35) (20) ★★ We Bought a Zoo '11, Com/Dra	Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Matt Damon.	(40) FXM Presents	★ 13 Going on 30 '04, Com	Mark Ruffalo, Jennifer Garner.	(50) FXM Presents	UnREAL		(05) UnREAL			
36	LIFE	(36) (5:00) To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Devious Maids		UnREAL		(05) UnREAL			
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim Site: Angel Stadium -- Anaheim, Calif. (L)				Post-game		MLB Baseball Seattle vs L.A. Angels			
39	FST	(39) UFC Unleashed (N)		WPT Poker Alpha8		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself		To Be Announced		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports
43	SP1KE	(43) Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight	
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)	
45	HIST	(45) Amer. Pickers "For a Few Dollars More"		American Pickers "Big Moe"		Amer. Pickers "The Einstein Gamble"		American Pickers "Law and Hoarder"		American Pickers "Bucking Bronco"		(05) Pickers "The Return of Hobo Jack"	
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "One of Ours"		The First 48 "Red Brick/ Last Kiss"		The First 48 "M.I.A."		60 Days In	The First 48	The First 48 "Bad Tempered/ The Bully"		(05) The First 48 "The Ties That Bind"	
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Too Close to Home "Highway 16"		Too Close to Home "Have You Heard?"		Too Close to Home "A Surprise Visit" (N)		Too Close to Home "Have You Heard?"		Too Close to Home "A Surprise Visit"	
48	DISC	(48) Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud "Revving up a '69 Riviera"		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Sacred Steel Bikes (N)		Fast N' Loud	
49	NGEO	(49) W. Tuna "Old Sailors and Bold Sailors"		Live Free or Die "To the Bone"		W. Tuna "Old Sailors and Bold Sailors"		Wicked Tuna "Hostile Waters" (N)		Live Free or Die "Making Moves" (N)		Wicked Tuna "Hostile Waters"	
50	TNT	(50) Castle "A Dance With Death"		Castle "47 Seconds"		Rizzoli & Isles "Ocean Frank"		Major Crimes "White Lies" Pt. 1 of 2		Major Crimes "White Lies" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)		Major Crimes "White Lies"	
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) ★★ Erin Brockovich '00	Aaron Eckhart, Marg Helgenberger, Julia Roberts.	★ Charlie's Angels (2000, Action)	Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, Drew Barrymore.	★ Charlie's Angels II: Full Throttle '03	Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz.						
52	USA	(52) NCIS		Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw							
53	FOOD	(53) Cake Wars "Spongebob"		Cake Wars "Charlie Brown's All-Stars"		Kids "Fake It Til You Make It" (N)		Cake Wars "Powerpuff Girls" (N)		Chopped "Beg, Borrow or Eel"		Chopped "Bizarre Baskets!"	
54	HGTV	(54) House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	Tiny House, Big	Tiny House, Big	TinyHouseHunters	HouseHunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters
55	FX	(55) ★★ R.I.P.D. (2013, Action)	Jeff Bridges, Mary-Louise Parker, Ryan Reynolds.	★ 21 Jump Street (2012, Action)	Channing Tatum, Ice Cube, Jonah Hill.			Ride Along (2014, Action/Comedy)	Kevin Hart, Ice Cube.				
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Adventure Cap "Coastal Forest" (N)		Adventure Capitalists "Ocean"		Adventure Capitalists "Coastal Forest"		The Profit "The Soup Market"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRVA	(63) The Real Housewives		Real Housewives "Woo Hoo Weekend"		Orange County Social (N)		Housewives "The Moral Minority" (N)		To Be Announced		WatchWhat (N)	Housewives NJ
64	TCM	(64) (15) ★★ Jaws (1975, Horror)	Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.			AFI's Master Class		★ The Sugarland Express '74, Dra	Ben Johnson, Michael Sacks, Goldie Hawn.	AFI Life Award			
65	SYFY	(65) (5:00) ★★ Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade '89	Harrison Ford.			★★ Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief '10	Jake Abel, Logan Lerman.	★ Lake Placid (1999, Action)	Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman.				
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live" Bayer		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	