A Fifty-State Survey of School Finance Policies and Programs: An Overview

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Purpose
This overview provides a synthesis of a comprehensive survey of school finance programs in the 50 states conducted in 2006-07. Information was provided by chief state school finance officers or persons with expertise in a states' public school funding-allocation system.

The Article
Brief descriptions of the major Pre-K-12 funding formulae, district-based finance components, student-based finance components, and revenue and expenditure information were provided for each of the 50 states.

What This Means for the Field
Results show an increase in states' use of foundation-type programs; changes as a result of state-level accountability systems, including increased recognition of the differentiated needs of students; and an increase in state support for capital outlay. Consistent with court decisions, states appear to be taking a more active role in the design of public school finance programs that recognize the differences in the needs of pupils, schools, and school districts.

Citation

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