**Michael Cattell**

**EDTHP 518 Policy Analysis Paper**

**April 10, 2024**

Introduction

How are schools funded in Pennsylvania?

A significant portion of Pennsylvania’s allocation to its public schools comes from the Basic Education Funding (BEF) formula outlined in Act 35 of 2016.

Why is school funding a problem?

Whether school funding matters for students has been a question percolating within education for several decades. Modern discussion of school finance can be traced back to the *Equality of Educational Opportunity* report, colloquially known as the *Coleman Report* (Hutt, 2017; Kantor & Lowe, 2017; Downey & Condron, 2016). The *Coleman Report* was commissioned by the U.S. Congress and stated that schools do not have the same influence on student outcomes and achievement gaps as out-of-school environments (Downey & Condron, 2016). Since then, a wealth of research has come out that has, over time, found that schools do play a role in students’ ability to graduate high school, earn a postsecondary degree, and have better outcomes as an adult (Jackson et al. 2015; Hyman, 2017; Hanushek, 2002; Lafortune et al., 2018).

Josh Shapiro’s Proposed Budget

Josh Shapiro’s budget comes on the heels of

What does this mean for Pennsylvania schools?