

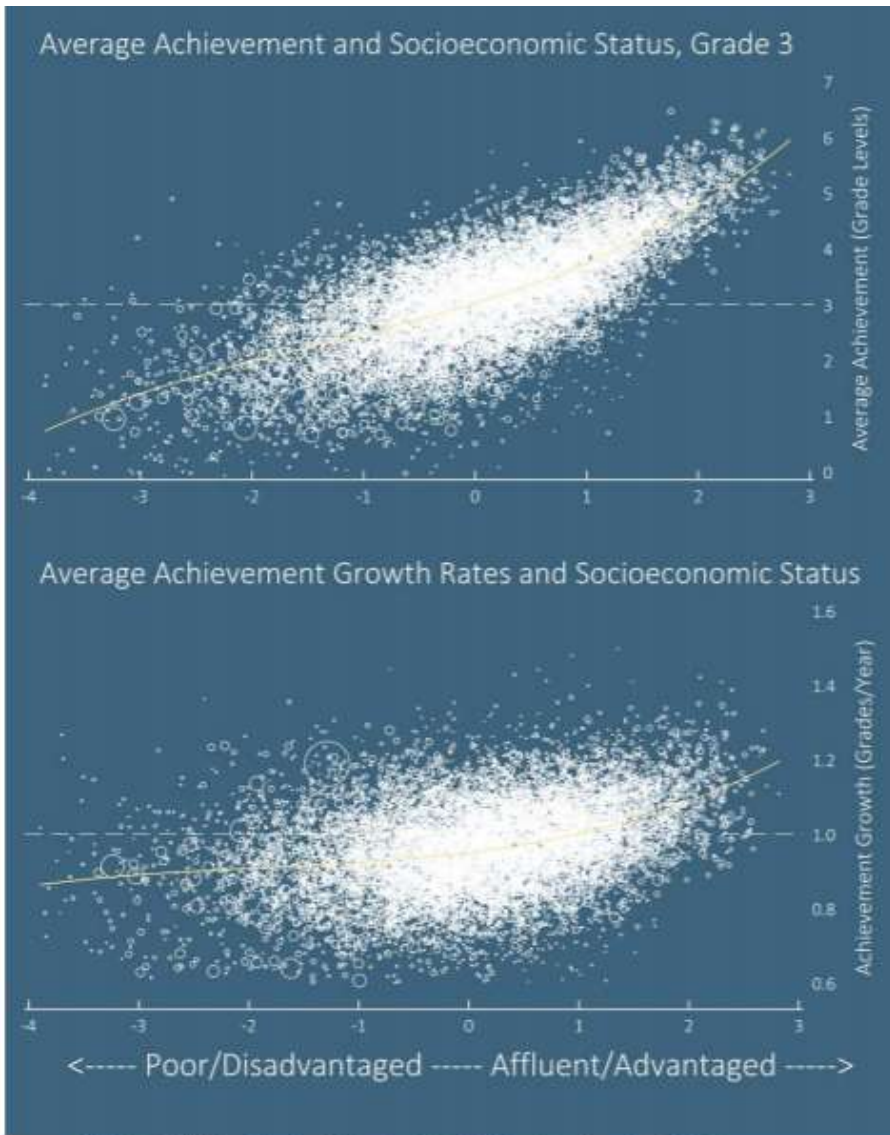
COVID / Education

Overview

- Schooling is unlikely to just “pick up” where it left off last year
- Schools rely on resources that will likely be dramatically cut during this downturn
- Differences in resources are likely to increase inequality between students



Dr. Oded Gurantz
Assistant Professor
Truman School of
Public Affairs



Source: Author's tabulations, Stanford Education Data Archive (Reardon et al. 2017a).

- Socio-economic status (SES) strongly predicts levels in test scores by grade 3 (or earlier)
- SES still predicts growth in test scores between grades 3 to 8 but schools play an important role in moderating this effect
- The strongest correlates of racial/ethnic achievement gaps are differences in parental income and educational attainment and patterns of racial/ethnic segregation, consistent with model that family SES factors affect educational opportunity partly through residential and school segregation patterns (Reardon, Kalogrides, & Shores, 2019)

PHILLY'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Update: Philly schools remove 'parking lot' WiFi option after pushback

Superintendent Hite says it was never endorsed by the district.



The School District of Philadelphia took a step back from their previous recommendation that students who don't have reliable internet access at home could do their remote learning in parking lots.

Superintendent William Hite clarified at a virtual Thursday morning press briefing that the district didn't mean to recommend students learn in parking lots – but instead wanted to offer it as one option families could use if they didn't have an internet connection. The School District has since removed the parking lot guidance from its website.

Hite said the district is working to [distribute wireless hotspots](#) to families that need them – but demand for the devices is so high that [he's been having trouble](#) securing enough of them.

Tweet from @Avi_WA

“Parking Lot” WiFi was originally one of the options [listed on the district website](#) for kids whose households aren't connected to WiFi. Included along with other free or low-cost alternatives from Comcast, Verizon and T-Mobile, it was described as “accessible around the exterior of a building such as a school or library – and generally reachable from the facility's parking lot.”

DANYA HENNINGER / BILLY PENN



Michaela Winberg

Apr. 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

- Schools provide much more than just instruction
 - National School Lunch Program improves test performance (Schwartz & Rothbart, 2020)

Columbia Public Schools grab-and-go meal sites

Columbia Public Schools late Friday announced the times and locations for grab-and-go food service for children who are out of classes because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The meal service will begin March 30, the day students were scheduled to return to class from their annual spring break, and continue Monday through Friday until classes resume. The district has set April 27 as the tentative date for schools to be back in session.



NEWS



Schools Face Nightmare Scenario After Coronavirus Crisis

While schools debate reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic, some are worried about the budget cuts that lay ahead.

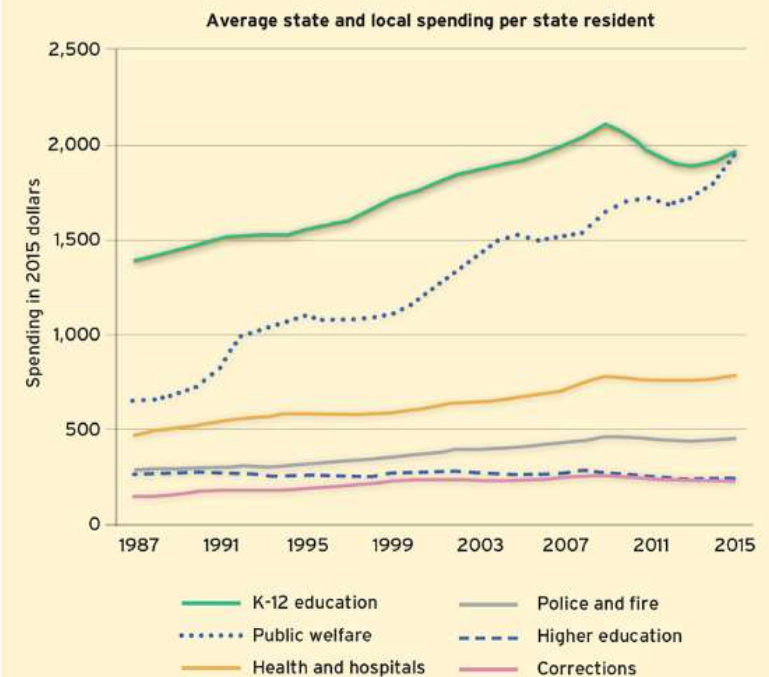
By Lauren Camera, Senior Education Writer May 1, 2020

Educators, principals, superintendents and education policy experts are already thinking aloud about the myriad complications and expenses involved with reopening schools in a world where so much has changed: continued efforts to get digital learning tools and working WiFi in the hands of every student should a second wave of the virus force school closures in the fall; effective training for teachers about how to make distance learning work; more mental health workers in schools to help students who experienced trauma during the pandemic; increase in support staff should some districts decide to stagger reopening by having groups of students come certain days and learn remotely on others.

- Why do schools anticipate large budget cuts?
- Great Recession led to large drop in K-12 funding that has not yet recovered
- K-12 funding comes from state (sales taxes, general appropriations) and local revenues (property taxes)
- Education competes with other state expenditures, particularly health care

Upward Trends in Other Spending Categories (Figure 2)

As state and local investments in higher education have declined on a per-resident basis, spending has grown in other categories, including K-12 education, public welfare, health and hospitals, police and fire protection, and corrections.



NOTE: "Public welfare" includes Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, Temporary Aid for Needy Families, and most Medicaid expenditures, although some types of Medicaid spending are categorized as "health."

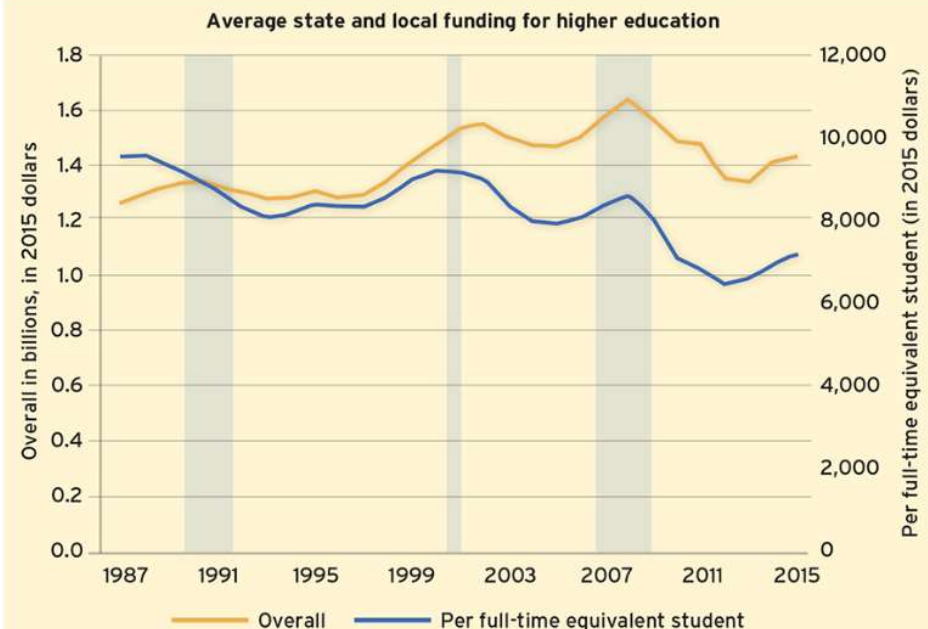
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances

Higher Education

- Weak economy increases postsecondary enrollment right as budgets are cut
- Colleges rely on four main revenue streams: tuition, state funding, auxiliary enterprises such as food service and facilities rentals, and gifts/endowment
- Typical student at a public university has seen 1/4 drop in gov't subsidy since 1987
 - \$1,000 in state divestment leads colleges to raise tuition by about \$257 (Webber, 2017)
 - Average annual net price of a four-year public college, after grants and scholarships, doubled in inflation-adjusted terms from 1998 to 2018

Less State Money Per Higher Ed Student (Figure 1)

Although states are spending more overall on higher education today than in 1987, these spending increases have not kept pace with student enrollment growth. State and local funding for higher education has declined to \$7,152 per student enrolled in a public two- or four-year school in 2015, down from \$9,489 per student enrolled in 1987.



NOTE: Shaded areas in chart space denote periods of contraction in the business cycle. There is a clear relationship between state and local financial support for higher education and the business cycle, with money shifted away from higher education during recessions and typically restored (although not completely) once the economy has recovered.

- Can colleges really re-open?
Will students come?
 - Online courses lead to worse academic performance (Bettinger, Fox, Loeb, Taylor, 2017)
- Closure of smaller colleges

Coronavirus pandemic closes Urbana University campus permanently

By Emily Bamforth, cleveland.com

4/21/2020



CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Urbana University is now one of the first Ohio colleges to permanently shut its doors due to financial pressure from the coronavirus pandemic.

The small, liberal arts campus northwest of Columbus has long struggled with declining enrollment and financial problems. Franklin

Unimpressed by online classes, college students seek refunds



Summary

- Competing fiscal priorities likely to leave schools with fewer resources right when their services are in highest demand
- Inequality by socio-economic status, ethnicity likely to increase
- Many unknowns: External challenges often lead to implementation of new policies (e.g., eliminating teacher certifications; MOOCs; elimination of departments or faculty)