



KNOW THE ISSUES

WHAT IS “COSTING-OUT” ?

It is important for us to know the real costs of good schools so we can work together to make sure our schools get enough money to be good schools. A “costing-out” study is a good way of looking at what things schools need to help their students succeed and figuring out the cost of all those things. For example, schools need to hire good teachers, have small enough classes, buy textbooks and computers, and make their buildings safe. All of these things can be expensive.

Who uses the costing-out process?



“Costing-out” studies have helped people in Maryland and Wyoming get more money from the State for their local schools. In Maryland, advocates hired a well-known company to “cost-out” good schools. Good schools meant schools with the resources needed to help kids pass the Maryland state exams.

In Wyoming, the State Supreme Court ordered the legislature to change the school funding system, based on a costing-out study that figured out how much it would cost to prepare all students for work or college.

These costing-out studies said schools with lots of low-income students or kids learning English should get more money because they need to have special programs, like after-school tutoring and smaller class sizes. So the schools in Baltimore, where there are lots of low-income kids, will get more money.

How is costing-out done?

“Costing-out” is usually done in one of two ways. One way uses the “professional judgment” of people with experience running good schools to decide what kids need so they can learn enough, like good teachers and small classes. Then, cost experts calculate the costs of those things. The other way finds “successful schools” with high achieving students and figures out how much money those schools spend.

Find out more about costing-out or find out what is going on in your state by visiting www.schoolfunding.info/research/costout.htm.

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