



Augenblick, Palaich
and Associates, Inc.

*“Providing analysis for more than 20
years on the cost and impact of
education policy change.”*

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Who We Are

Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc (APA) is a privately owned company with more than 20 years experience analyzing education systems and policies. We have worked with state legislatures, education agencies and boards of education, district and county-level leaders, business leaders, foundations and numerous other groups interested in improving our country's education system.

APA Expertise

- Creating models to cost out education system changes.
- Conducting research and evaluations utilizing statistical and data analysis, surveys, panel discussions, focus groups, interviews, and literature reviews.
- Understanding the impacts of reforms or policies on education systems.
- Determining the resources and programs needed for schools to meet state and federal academic standards.
- Helping to measure spending efficiency.
- Creating models to estimate the long-term impact of policy changes.
- Providing policy guidance and analysis to implement education reforms.
- Facilitating strategic and organizational planning sessions.
- Writing for a broad audience about topics of relevance to our work and of importance to the entire education community.

Key Questions APA Can Help Answer

What Does it Cost for Schools to Succeed?

The demand to know the cost of an adequate education continues to grow, and APA, which has now conducted such work in more than 20 states, is the consulting firm most chosen to conduct studies on this topic. These studies help state leaders better understand the level of resources that is “adequate” to the primary task set before schools and districts: ensuring all students meet state and federal academic performance expectations.

What do Specific Programs Cost?

APA can develop effective methodologies to estimate the cost of implementing any new federal, state, or district level policy or education program. We were, for

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instance, hired by the Council of Chief State School Officers to estimate specific administrative and other costs incurred by complying with NCLB mandates. We can also estimate the costs associated with implementing expanded early childhood programs such as full-day kindergarten and preschool, and we have worked for the Bellsouth Foundation to study costs associated with operating and running effective virtual schools.

Are There Innovative Ways to Pay Teachers?

School districts are beginning to explore new ways of paying and rewarding effective teachers. For instance, the Denver Public Schools (DPS) relied upon APA's help to successfully plan and implement the nation's first and only full-featured, performance-based teacher compensation program. Other clients, including the states of Ohio and New Mexico, and several school districts have used APA to help develop and estimate the cost of revised teacher compensation.

Can Policy Innovations Improve Student Performance?

APA believes that research founded on the best available data is the most effective way to ensure that changes to education systems are made thoughtfully and with purpose. It is this reliance on data that drives the work we conduct for our clients. We have found effective ways to use such data to tackle some of the most persistent challenges facing today's public education systems, including:

- Attracting and retaining teachers in hard to staff schools.
- Identifying the effectiveness and impact of charter schools.
- Studying disparities in the level of resources available to urban school systems.
- Analyzing districts or counties to identify options for improving schools.
- Identifying "beat the odds" schools with high percentages of low income students that achieve high performance and studying the programs and policies which these schools and districts utilize.

Are School Funding Systems Efficient?

APA is hired by counties, state legislatures, and state departments of education to review the efficiency of school funding systems and to offer recommendations for changes that may be required to implement reforms. APA has also developed a series of "efficiency screens" to appropriately identify districts that not only achieve at a high level, but do so in an efficient fiscal manner.

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