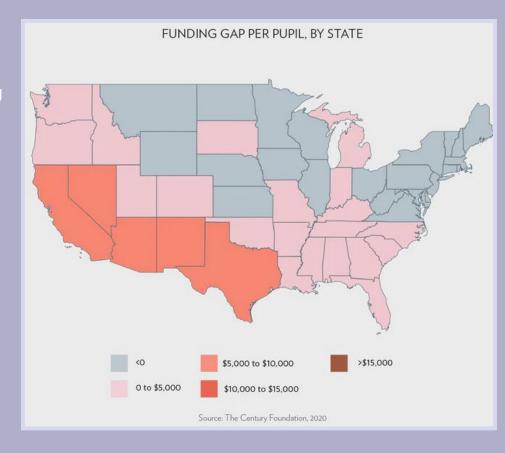
Funding For Education

By: Reese Covalle

Education is the backbone of our society. It is the way we teach the next generation, how we shape who takes our place. But what does our education system value? What do we teach and what don't we teach? How and who do we give our resources to? Funding should be spread out evenly and education should be a top priority for our nation, but as of right now, there is a long way to ao.

The fact is, education opportunities and resources are not spread out evenly. This has long been the case, but not a lot has been done about it. The gap has continued to grow between high and low poverty districts, which has led to achievement gaps, unsafe places to learn, uncomfort in schools and social gaps as well...



Plus, the whole issue provides a problem for the future of our nation. So why is this happening? And more importantly, what can we do about it?



To help answer the question of why this is happening, we can look at the patterns we see. In many of the districts, there is a significant pattern based on race.

Districts that are majority Black/Latinx are far more likely to have a funding gap, and these districts experience significantly higher gaps as well.

According to this graph, there is an average of a 6,000 dollar gap between Majority Black/Latinx districts and Majority White Districts.

So, race is definitely a factor in the inequality of these districts and should not be overlooked when we think of a solution.

(The 0\$ represents when there would be a 0\$ gap between the districts)

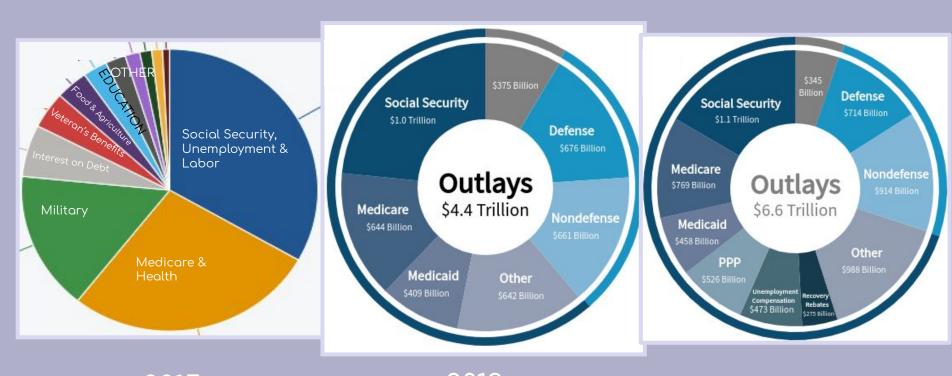
Teachers also have a huge impact on their students. Often, the difference of a good teacher is everything. Having that cheerleader who can help you achieve your goals and learn your way of life is no easy task. But teachers are often not given the payback they deserve, and it has an effect on their students.

As stated in the Center for American Progress, "From 1996 to 2015, the average weekly wages of public sector teachers decreased \$30 per week, from \$1,122 to \$1,092 in 2015 dollars. During this same time period, the weekly wages of all college graduates rose from \$1,292 to \$1,416. As a result, teacher's weekly earning are now (as of 2015) 23 percent lower than those of other college graduates"

and "In a study of 113 large public school districts, researchers found that it can take nearly 25 years, on average, for teachers to earn a yearly salary of \$75,000.".

This is a serious problem in the funding for education, because teachers are not paid as if they value, even though they are teaching new generations the tools they need to get the jobs of those higher college wages. Many teachers cannot do teaching alone, because it is simply not enough to live by. This problem needs to be addressed. Teachers are important too, and they deserve a proper pay for they job they do.'

Education Percentages Over the Years



2015 Education- 2.67%

2019 Education- 13.61%

2020 Education- 0.97%

Another important factor in this issue is the role of the government. These charts display the entire federal funding budget for years 2015, 2019, and 2020, respectively. In all three graphs, the amount of funding that is put into education is shockingly low.

In 2015, education was only 2.67% of the entire budget. Then, there was an increase to about 13.61%, which was good, but not great.

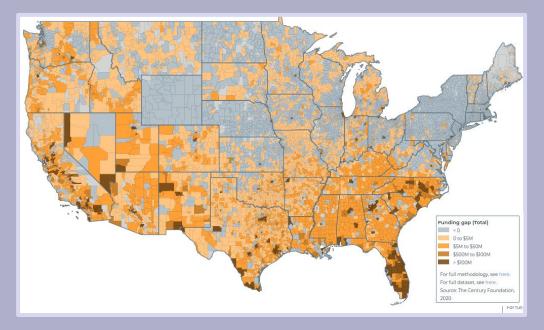
Then, in 2020, the amount was decreased to lower than 1% of the budget.

Education is our future, yet the government can't even make it a priority. According to the Center for American Progress, "On average, 47 percent of K-12 education funding comes from state revenue, while local government provides 45 percent, and the federal government provides the remaining 8 percent",

Only 8 percent of education funding as a whole comes from the federal government, and the federal government as of 2020 had less than 1 % allotted to education. This is not an acceptable amount. How can we go about closing the funding gap when we aren't giving the funding needed to do that?

So what can be done? Well, we can educate ourselves and others. Keep yourself updated on events relating to this and let people know that this is a problem. Bring it up in conversations, ask questions, and get people thinking about why education is valuable.

There are also many resources that give information about ways to go about solving this problem. For example, the Century Foundation created a model to show the amount needed to erase funding gaps. In addition, he President is proposing the American Families Plan which would add around 62 billion dollars to education.



long and challenging as possible, but problem, but the more important thing we can all be a part of the solution.

Bibliography:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZWkFMLwMXKT1A

bQJb4_wUAiCaJGLSDAJl_0lFQxYDlg/edit?usp=sharing