

Are the data reported in a way that can be used for
school improvement?

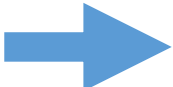
FiTWiG August Meeting

Marguerite Roza
Liz Ross

August 18, 2020

Agenda

A. It's SHOWTIME! Let's take stock...

1. Were states able to meet the requirement?
2. Are states using the IFR for common reporting? (And how's that going?)
3. Can the data be used to compare spending across schools in a district?
-  4. Are the data reported in a way that can be used for school improvement?

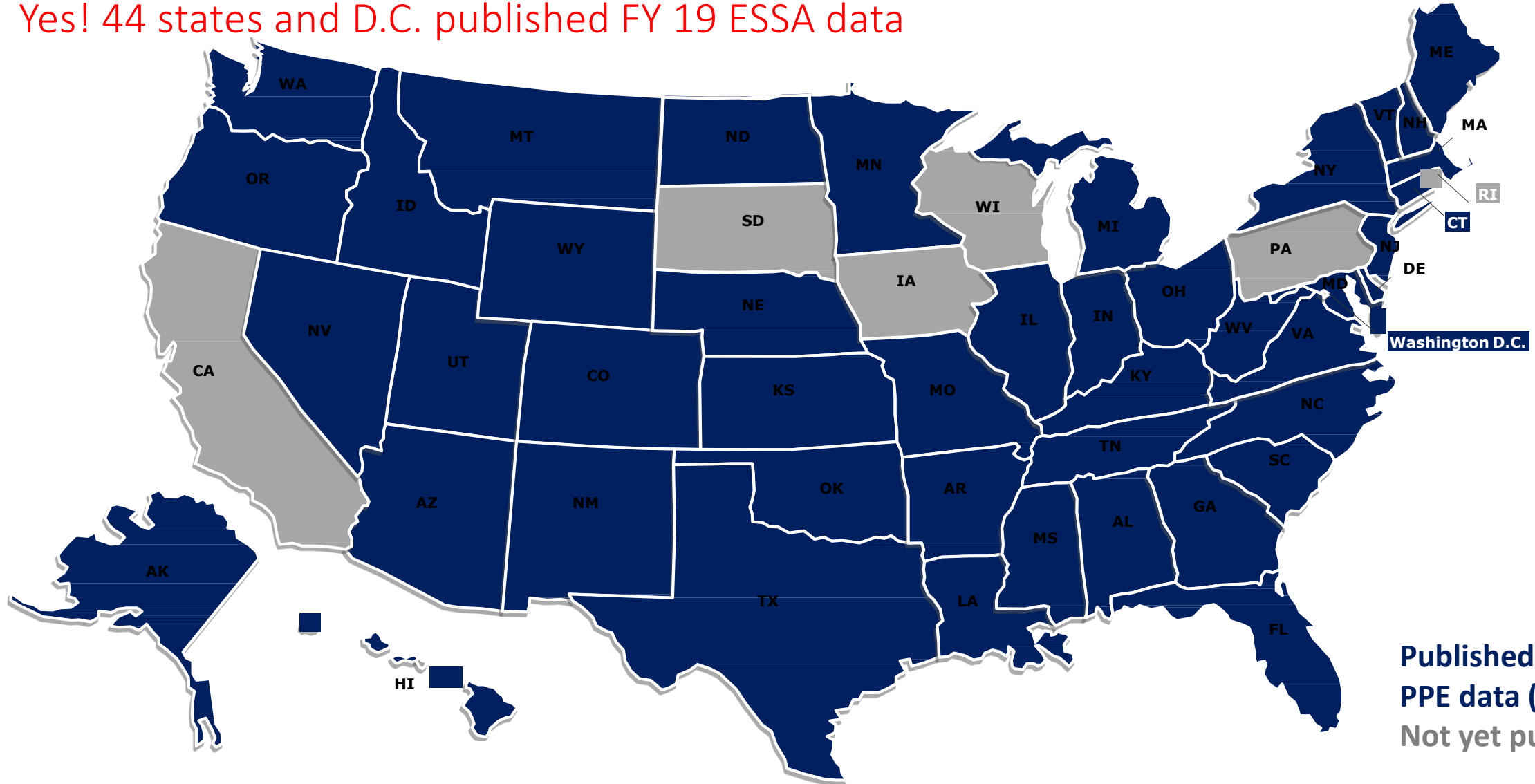
B. Updates on federal funding...

C. Exciting news for FiTWiG fans



Are states releasing school-by-school spending data?

Yes! 44 states and D.C. published FY 19 ESSA



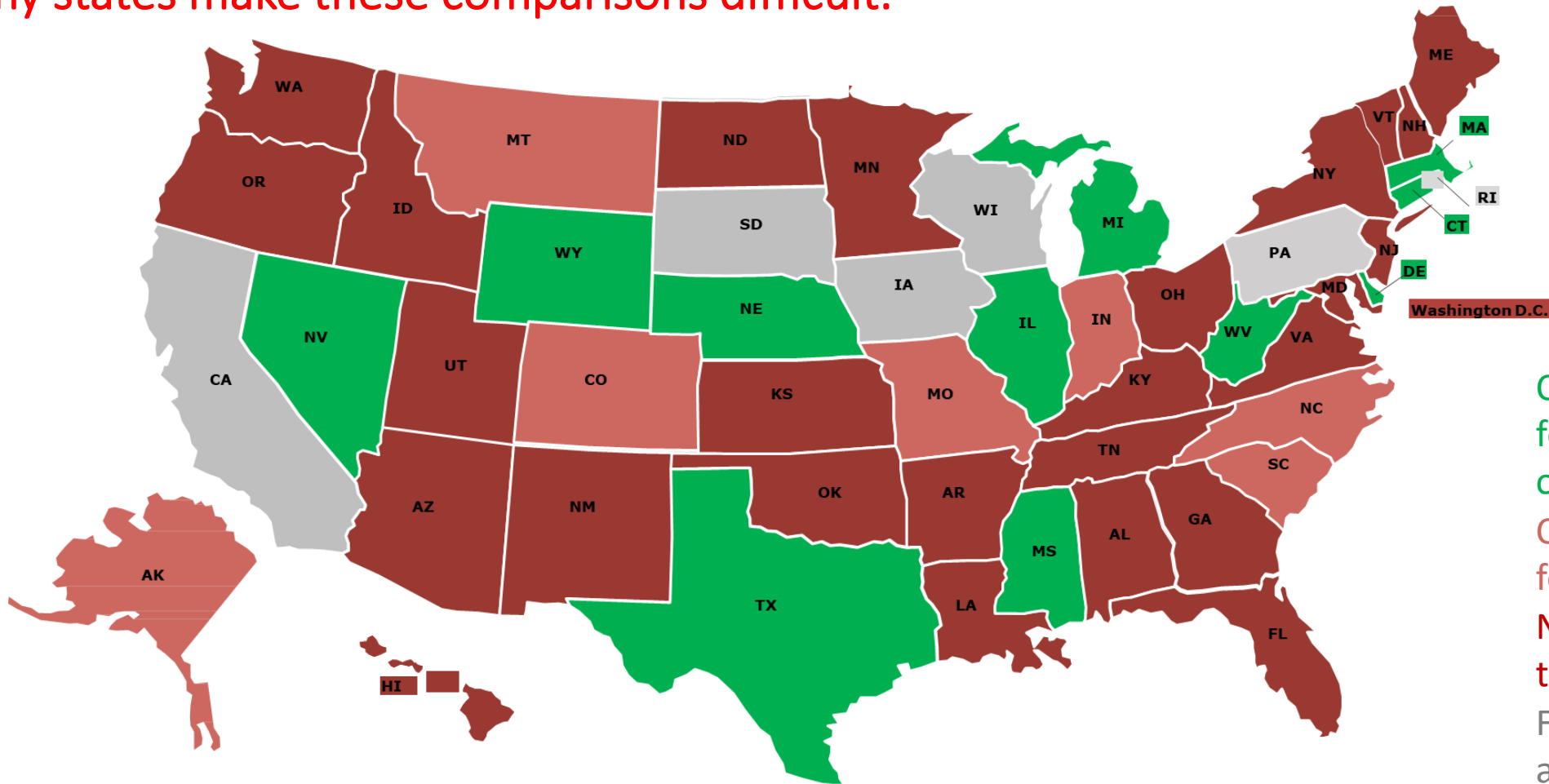
Published FY 19 ESSA
PPE data (45)
Not yet published (6)

Want to see states' PPE data? Visit the DataHub!

<https://edunomicslab.org/our-research/data-hub/>

Can the data be used to explore spending equity within a district?

Many states make these comparisons difficult.



Comparisons can be made for all a districts schools at once (11)

Comparisons are limited to a few schools at a time (7)

No comparison abilities on the report card (27)

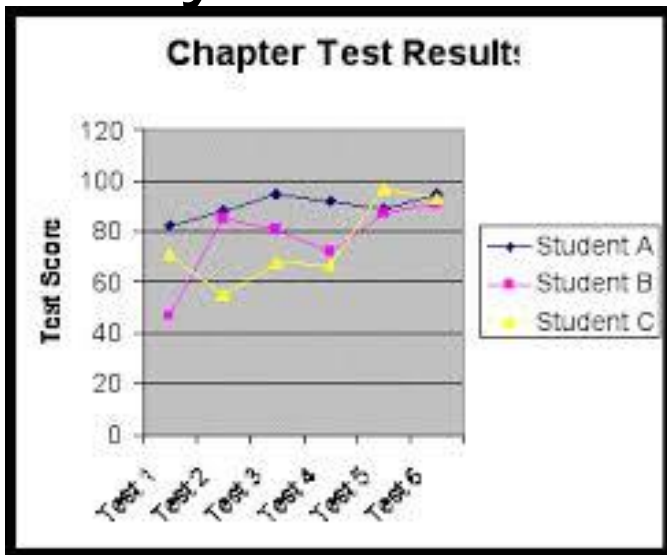
FY 19 ESSA data not available

Many states have released downloadable data files which can be used for within-district analysis: AL, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, ND, NJ, NV, OH, OK, OR, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WY

Can the data be used to inform decision-making and drive school improvement?

Generally, no. This comparison feature is only possible in four states: AR, IL, MA, OK

Outcomes by school



+

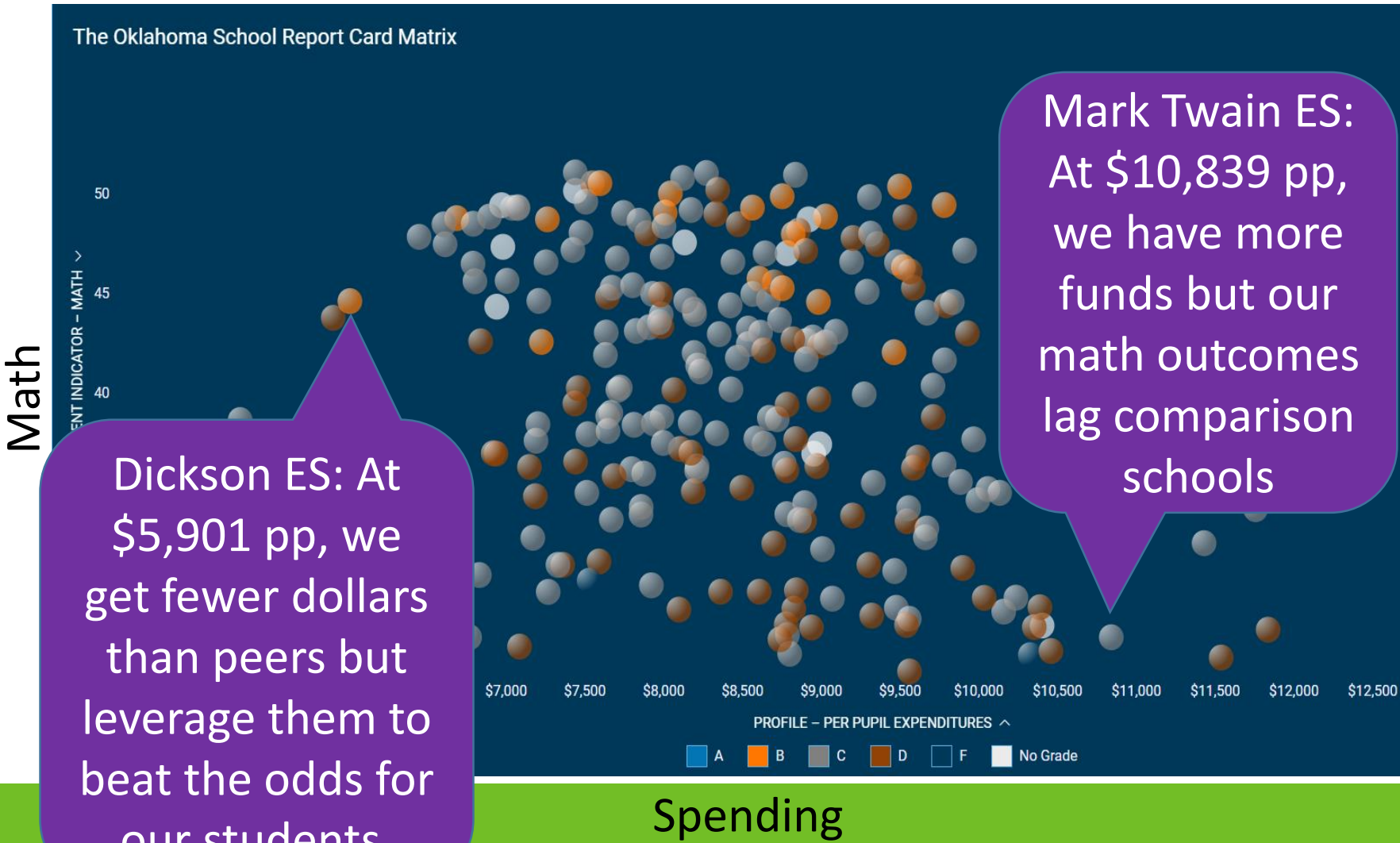
Spending by school



Of the 4 states, only 3 have a graphic interface that permits spending/outcomes comparisons among like peers:
IL, AR, OK

Three states do provide school-by-school spending and outcomes data in a single downloadable file: MA, ME, NY

Interactive web tools enable comparisons among like schools: Example from OK

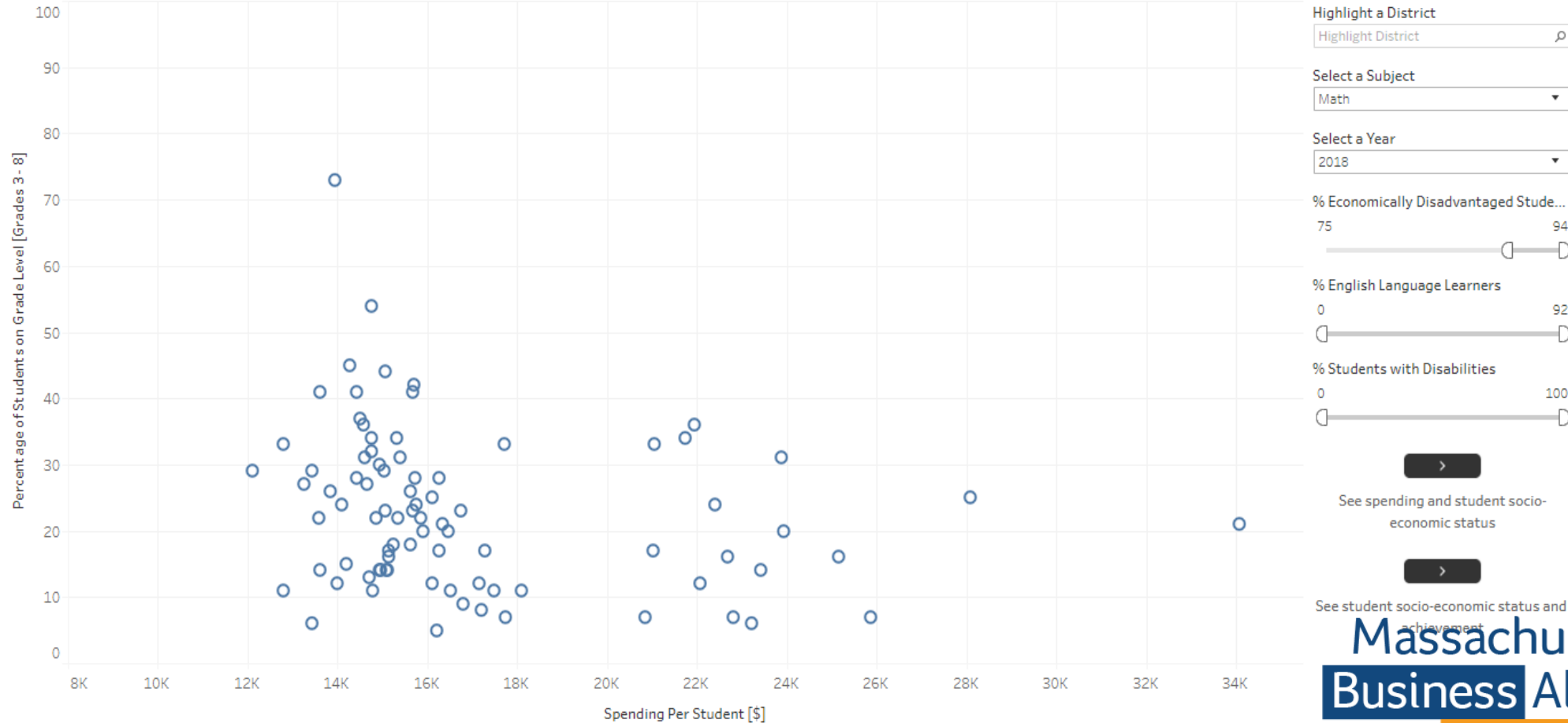


Filters display meaningful peers:
Elementary schools
Enrollment: 300-400
Poverty: 50-70%

Here's what this tells me:
How well does my school leverage dollars to drive math outcomes (when compared with like peers)?

Where the SEA doesn't provide the comparison tools, advocacy organizations are creating their own.

School spending and the percentage of students on grade level | *Massachusetts elementary and middle schools*



More advocacy groups are creating visualizations that line up spending with performance:
EdTrust NY
BestNC

Massachusetts
Business Alliance
for Education

Do you think it's appropriate for SEAs to display spending vs. outcomes across schools? (Y/N)

We asked this in December, and FiTWiG responses were split on this.

Chat: Any thoughts now?

Need resources?



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that state education agencies (SEAs) conduct periodic resource allocation reviews (RARs) in districts that serve low-performing schools. The mandate represents a new opportunity for states and districts to examine the connection between resource allocation and academic outcomes, but the language of the law may leave some questions unanswered. This guide provides a framework for conducting RARs and includes a sample data report.

Guide for Resource Allocation Reviews

<https://edunomicslab.org/2019/09/25/appendix-a-sample-data-report/>



This document offers a set of exercises designed to help education leaders better understand the relationship between spending and student performance—and position them to use emerging data to explore opportunities for productivity in their day-to-day work improving education. Typically, schooling has been measured on student outcomes alone. Imagine an information system that incorporates student performance and school-level financial information for every school in a state. This guide provides a framework for conducting RARs and includes a sample data report.

Guide to engage leaders in finance & outcomes data

<https://edunomicslab.org/2017/05/23/the-productivity-opportunity/>

State questions: CHAT your thoughts

Illinois: How are states addressing the change in GASB 84 which requires districts to put student activity funds into the Education Fund? In Illinois, expenditures from these funds were left out of school-by-school spending data entirely.



Key updates on ongoing discussions about more federal funding for K-12: Interview with David DeSchryver



Senior Vice President, Co-Director of Research
Whiteboard Advisors



New partnership, New look
Same collaborative, finance focused work



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A MOMENT OF (EARLY) TRUTH: TAKING STOCK OF SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL SPENDING DATA

By Lucy Hadley, Elizabeth Ross, and Marguerite Roza

Nearly five years ago, a small but consequential provision in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) got stacked into a pile of new things states need to do. For the first time, states were required to make public' per-student spending for *every school in the country* (versus the usual district and state per-pupil averages, which can mask big school-by-school spending differences). The hope was that the data would be a game changer in that it would prompt districts to re-examine how they spend dollars across schools, with more intention paid toward equity and improving education. But big questions and concerns emerged: Could states pull off the data task? Would the data be any good? Would it be useful and usable? Would it spark widespread political havoc? Now, with the June 30, 2020, reporting deadline in the rear-view mirror, we offer first-cut answers to the early headliner—and newly emerging—questions.

<https://edunomicslab.org/2020/07/15/taking-stock-of-school-by-school-spending/>

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