

**From:** Marchio Tony [<mailto:Tony.Marchio@appo.k12.de.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:28 PM  
**To:** Cunningham Emily W. (Lt Governor)  
**Subject:** RE: Report on School District Spending

Thanks for the heads up, Emily. I voiced my concerns to Lt. Governor Denn last year because we had no forewarning that a study of this nature was being conducted and released to the press, and I appreciate the advanced notice this time. My concern was, and still is, that the state has no uniform system for collecting this data and that the comparisons are apples to oranges and, therefore, misleading. Even within the defined categories, there is much room for interpretation. More importantly, Lt. Gov. Denn's study did not take into account student achievement as it relates to spending.

Recently, the Center for American Progress did a well researched investigation on school spending that focused on the return on educational investments. It listed every school district in the country. The research focused not only on spending but how effective the spending was in relationship to student achievement. Lt. Gov. Denn's report lacks that depth and just focuses on spending in one area leading one to conclude, without any basis, that expenditures on school administrators is a negative. His report contributes to the feeding frenzy that school districts are top heavy on school administrators and are not good managers of their money. Do we need another negative story on our schools when our Governor and Sec. of Education are working so hard to restore trust and support for our public schools?

I hope that the report is more thoughtful this time around, and if it is not, I will be voicing my opinion to the News Journal.

**From:** Cunningham Emily W. (Lt Governor)  
[\[mailto:emily.cunningham@state.de.us\]](mailto:emily.cunningham@state.de.us)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:16 AM

**To:** Marchio Tony; Holodick Mark; '[kevin.fitzgerald@cr.k12.de.us](mailto:kevin.fitzgerald@cr.k12.de.us)'; Robinson David; Thomas Michael; LYLES MARCIA V.; Linn Dorothy; Ring David C; Bunting Susan; '[ddcurry@lf.k12.de.us](mailto:ddcurry@lf.k12.de.us)'; McCoy John; '[skanter@mail.milford.k12.de.us](mailto:skanter@mail.milford.k12.de.us)'; Godowsky Steven; Sole Dianne G; Daugherty Mervin B; Knorr Russ; Wicks Deborah; Lathbury Aj; Carson Kevin (K12)

**Subject:** Report on School District Spending

Dear School Superintendent:

This year, the Lieutenant Governor's office will again be issuing a report on school district spending that is based upon National Center for Education Statistics reporting categories. Following the issuance of last year's report, some superintendents indicated that they believed their districts had unique spending or reporting requirements that should be noted when comparing district spending using NCEES statistics. We would like to consider such information when issuing this year's report.

To that end, if you believe that your district has any specific spending or reporting requirements relating to NCEES statistics which are not shared by other districts, please me know in writing at this e-mail address by the close of business on Thursday, April 21, 2011.

Thank you!

Emily

Emily W. Cunningham  
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Lt. Governor Matt Denn  
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