

Get Smart Fast: Using the School Spending & Outcomes Snapshot to Drive School Improvements

Why does this topic matter?

The [School Spending & Outcomes Snapshot \(SSOS\)](#) allows users to view and print data visualizations to explore spending and outcomes data to:

- Foster thoughtful conversations to improve equity and outcomes in school communities
- Allow stakeholders at all levels to access educational financial and outcomes data
- Drive school improvement
- Answer important questions, such as:
 - › “Is my school leveraging dollars to do the most for students?”
 - › “How equitable is a particular district’s allocation method?”

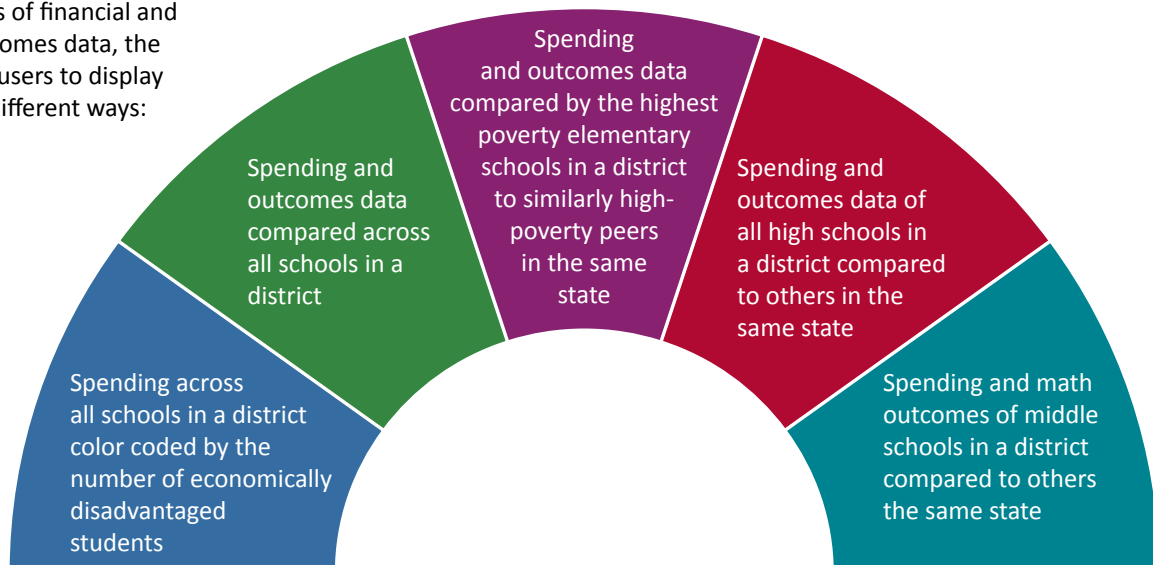
What does the evidence say?

Most district leaders are not yet interacting with school-by-school financial data in a systematic and meaningful way.

Visualizations of financial and outcome data can help leaders effectively focus on districtwide trends and make any needed changes.

District leaders need access to valid and reliable information to better understand how to leverage dollars for student outcomes.

To support stakeholders in accessing multiple important visualizations of financial and student outcomes data, the SSOS allows users to display data in five different ways:



What do conditions of success look like?

The SSOS is most successful when it is used with an open mind and a willingness to engage in difficult conversations about student outcomes and how they relate to the distribution of resources.

Examples

The SSOS is being used successfully when:

- Stakeholders **examine spending patterns and compare spending with outcomes** to see what trends exist.
- SSOS data is used to start conversations at the school- and district-level about **equitable distribution of resources** and how spending patterns may be related to performance.
- School and district leaders use the data visualizations to consider **changing or adding policies and practices** that can help them leverage spending to improve student outcomes.

What innovative models exist?

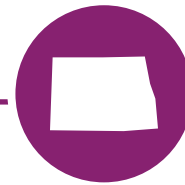
Here's what people are saying about the SSOS...



“One of the benefits of the visualization tool is to answer questions about ROI [return on investment]. That is something that is often elusive to us in education... it’s a good question and something that is relevant to the work that we do.” – Dr. Omar Riaz, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, Miami-Dade Public Schools



“This was golden. It broke down every school, for me, to go back and have a more effective conversation with the district on how to address those issues that were of concern to my African American/Black Parent Advisory Committee.” – Thaddeus Smith, Stockton Unified School District African American/Black Parent Advisory Committee



“Really taking a deep dive into how we make funding decisions based on student outcomes. I don’t think that [approach] was utilized in the past.” – Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

How are efforts funded?

The SSOS is completely free to use and can be accessed through the Comprehensive Center Network website and downloaded [here](#).

For more information and helpful resources, visit <https://compcenternetwork.org/>