

John Carroll University
Department of Education and Allied Studies
Syllabus

Course Number: ED 562
Course Title: School Finance and Economics

Knowledge base and rationale: The advanced foci of the Jesuit Ideal of an Educator call the student to develop personally and professionally, foster personal scholarship, begin to specialize in areas of knowledge and expertise, and develop leadership skills. The pursuit of graduate studies and participation in individual courses demand that the student commits him/herself to these ideals and demonstrates his/her commitment through individualized explorative initiative, active participation, and enthusiastic contributions. Understanding school financing in Ohio, including federal and local funding support, requires understanding the historical basis of school funding, the tax support structure, and the roles of various departments of state and local government. Also, understanding the process of developing an annual budget at both the district and building levels requires knowledge and skills to manage budgets and spending functions.

Major Target Areas from the Educational Leadership Constituents Council (ELCC) and the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards:

Standard 3.0: Managing resources to promote a safe, efficient and effective learning environment

Standard 6.0: Understanding, responding, and influencing the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context to promote student success.

Course Objectives:

Knowledge: The student will be able to:

1. understand the structure of school financing in Ohio and the nation
2. articulate the local financial support structure for schools
3. understand the larger political, social, cultural, and economic context and system of resources for effective and efficient educational system
4. articulate the concept of equity at the state and local perspectives
5. understand the components of a school district budget and technologies supporting its management
6. apply techniques for cost-analysis

Skills: The Student will be able to:

1. analyze the district budget and communicate the contents and principles
2. align fiscal resources to the goals of the school(s)
3. utilize appropriate technologies to facilitate the financial management function
4. apply procedures for determining cost-effectiveness
5. obtain and use the various state reports that provide financial data on school districts
6. critically evaluate the relationship between funding/budget and school performance

Dispositions: The student will be able to:

1. recognize the complexity of and the necessity to comprehend concepts of school finance
2. accept responsibility for efficient financial resource management and financial decision making
3. appreciate the importance of cost-effectiveness
4. acknowledge the expertise necessary for effective budget construction
5. respect the importance of citizen's views regarding the value of schooling

Desired Results: Each Student

- .. demonstrates accuracy, organization, and persistence in achieving intellectual and professional goals
- .. engages in systematic inquiry
- .. seeks out opportunities for professional development and growth
- .. assists fellow professionals

- .. demonstrates knowledge of the relationship between financial resources and the instructional process
- .. demonstrate knowledge of resources
- .. uses knowledge of communication techniques to foster collaboration and supportive interaction.
- .. take initiative in assuming leadership roles
- .. initiates activities that contribute to the profession
- .. to ensure that decisions are based on the highest professional standards.
- .. challenges negative attitudes and practices; is proactive in serving clients/students/colleagues

General Course Topics:

1. Responsibility for Education in USA
2. The Funding of Public Education in Ohio
3. Concepts Related to School Finance
4. Issues in School Finance today
5. How the Budgeting Process is done in Ohio
6. Concepts related to Budgeting
7. Major types of Budgeting processes
8. Various roles of people in school budgeting: Board of Education; treasurer; superintendent; principal, teacher.
9. Budgetary restrictions and cost effectiveness analysis.

Case Study Part 1: Students are expected to attend a school board meeting at their selected district and write an analysis of issues addressed at the meeting as they relate to school finance. Include:

1. A copy or listing of the agenda
2. Description of selected discussions and/or debatable issues
3. Divisiveness of board members and how resolved
4. Brief description of C & I, educational, extra curricular, student personnel, and staff issues and any related financial/budget implications
5. Time devoted to non-financial items (estimate the proportion of time).
6. Your impressions and reactions

Case Study Part 2: Students are expected to obtain a copy of the following materials from their selected school district and do a written comparative analysis of them (additional information concerning the analysis will be forthcoming during class sessions):

1. Five Year Fiscal Forecast
2. Employee salary schedules
3. Employee benefit package.
4. District's SF 3
5. County/Community tax rate list and details
6. Local homeowner's tax bill

Evaluation:

		A	95.0%
Case Study 1	15%	A-	92.5%

Case Study 2	35%	B+	90.0%
Mid-term exam	20%	B	87.5%
Participation	10%	B-	85.0%
Final Exercise	20%	C+	82.5%
		C	80.0%

1. Attendance is expected at all scheduled classes.
2. Students are expected to model professional behavior via class session preparation, input, and contributions to discussion.
3. Students are expected to participate in presentations and utilize the technology and university resources as necessary and available.

Course Outline/Schedule: (Subject to revision)

WEEK 1

6/19/06 Introduction

Review of Course Syllabus
 Current State of School Finance: The Perfect Storm
 State Budget and Proposed Amendments

6/20/06 Equity and Adequacy

The Economics of Education
 State of Ohio – Chronological History of School Finance
 DeRolph – Equity and Adequacy

- S-1 Important Concepts of Local School Finance
- S-9 The Courts and School Finance

6/21/06 Fiscal Concepts

Five-Year Fiscal Forecast
Sources of Revenue: Local, State, And Federal
Sources of Expenditure: Personnel, Benefits, Purchase Services

6/22/06 Five-Year Fiscal Forecasting

Review of Selected Five-Year District Forecasts

WEEK 2

6/26/06 Revenue - Local

Tax Budget/Tax Bill/Property Taxes/School Income Tax
HB 920 Implications/Rollback and Reductions
Types of Levies

- S-2 Raising Funds for Schools at the Local Level

6/27/06 Revenue - State

SF3 – Formula and Categorical
Alternative Schools: Charters, Vouchers, Eschools, PSEO

- S-4 State Support of Education

6/28/06 Revenue - Federal

Federal Interest in Education – NCLB
Title Funding and Grants
Special Education
Public funds and Non-Public Schools

- S-5 Federal Aid to Education

6/29/06 Revenue

Review Local/State/Federal

WEEK 3

7/03/06 Expenditures

Personnel Costs, Benefits, Purchased Services, Capital Outlay

7/05/06 Expenditures

Collective Bargaining Agreements: Salaries/Benefits/Supplemental/Other Costs
Financing School Facilities

S-3 Financing School Construction

7/06/06 **Mid – Term Exam**

Case Study 1 Due

Week 4

7/10/06 **Budgeting – Funds and the Budget Process**

Fund Accounting/Appropriations
Developing the School Budget

S-6 School Budget

7/11/06 **Budgeting - Accounting & Auditing**

The Purchasing Process
Review of Board Policy

7/12/06 **The Community and the School District**

S-7 Why do schools keep asking for more money?

S-8 Local Voting Decisions

Case Study 2 Due

7/13/06 **A Look Ahead**

Final Exam

S-10 Related School Financial Factors

Class Evaluation

Representative Works Consulted:

Levin, H. M. and McEwin, P. J. (2001). Cost-effectiveness Analysis (2nd ed.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Maxwell, M. E., Baughman, D., and Overly, D. E. (1996). Ohio School Finance: A Practitioner's Guide (2nd ed.). Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing.

Stabile, R. (1996). Power House Politics. Columbus, OH: Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

Wong, K. K., (1999) Funding Public Schools. Lawrence, KA: University of Kansas Press.

Journals consulted on a regular basis:

NASSP Bulletin

The Administrator
Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis
American Educational Research Journal
Review of Educational Research

Writing Style:

The APA Style manual should be consulted for written work.

Websites:

Ohio Department of Education	www.ode.state.oh.us
Cuyahoga County	www.cuyahoga.oh.us
Ohio State Auditor	www.auditor.state.oh.us
NASSP	www.nassp.org
BASA	www.basa-ohio.org
Buckeye Institute	www.buckeyeinstitute.org
Ohio Coalition	www.ohiocoalition.org