I received an email from President Timothy L. Killeen at University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign last week. In the email, he talks about how UIUC has been running with no funding from the state for more than three months. This is a pressing issue not only because I am a student at UIUC, but more importantly I want to become a teacher in the future. Education is a basic right for each individual. Residents pay taxes so the government has money to distribute to each department. Children of residents have the right to enjoy good public education.

Some scholars believe that the additional amount of funding does not show the increase in student achievement. However, most of people hold the opposite opinion. More people believe that students’ academic achievement directly related to school environment. While the school environment is greatly depended on the amount of funding. Children are not only the hope of a family, but also the future of a country. Only when children received high quality education can them become wise and able to contribute to the world. In this case, education is necessary; funding for public schools is necessary. In my research project, I want to focus on how does the amount of school funding relate to student’s achievements for students in public school systems.

For this project, I will try to use more sources from the library and the online database. Because the articles on the database are mostly scholarly papers which are more credible. Also
since funding for public education is an ongoing issue, I will try to use the source that is published within three years. When I do my research, I will use the term “funding for public education,” “students’ academic achievement” and “school environment.”

For this project, I think the challenge is that funding is kind of a sensitive topic. There might not be enough information or the information has been modified. But I will try to view each source critically. I will only use the source that is trustworthy.

Working Thesis: What impact does the amount of school funding have in terms of student’s achievement for students in public school systems?

Annotated Bibliography


This book contains the study of school environment and student achievement in multiple countries. The author compares nine cases and demonstrates that there is a link between school environment and student achievement.

This source is reliable. Although it was published in 2012, it was from Stanford University Press. Stanford has a great academic reputation so this book is trustworthy. This book has been peer reviewed. Also, this book proves the relationship between school environment and student achievement. School funding is closely related to school environment. So this book is relevant to my research topic.

This is an article about explaining that student’s performance gap is greatly related to the financial situation in that certain area. Schools in wealthy districts tend to have more funding. Students from the schools with more funding perform better academically.

This article is credible. It is from *Education & Urban Society*, which is an academic journal. It has been peer reviewed. It was published in June, 2015. So it is current. The article contains details about finance policies in the state Maryland. Besides, it is about finance and student’s performance. So this article is relevant to my topic.


This article mainly talks about the existence of an significant creativity gap between students from sub-urban school and students from urban school. But based on studies, they believe there is “a possible mediating role of academic achievement and intrinsic cognitive motivation, suggesting that the psychosocial processes and mechanisms leading to the creativity gap are tractable” (Dai). In this case, we are able to fix the gap.

This is a good source to use. It was published in 2012. It is a primary source from a scholarly journal so it is still reliable. Also, it has been peer reviewed. The article has detailed research like the study of students from two different types of schools. It talks about how school environment can have impact on students’ creativity, which is also a factor of students’ achievement. So this source is relevant to my research topic.

This is an article from a scholarly journal names Computers in Human Behavior. The article was peer reviewed. In the article, authors use statistical data and research to demonstrate that learning with technological supplies can improve students’ academic achievements.

I think this is a good source for my research project. It is a scholarly journal that has been publishing for years so it is trustworthy. The article was published in June, 2015. So it is current. Public schools need funding to get adaptive supplies. In this case, the article helps me prove that funding is crucial for high students’ achievements.


This article is about what public schools can do to raise money to have more technological supplies when they cannot receive enough funding from the government. This article includes detailed information like the Tech Search Party scavenger hunt in California, the crowdfunding websites DonorsChoose in Oregon, and the PledgeCents in Tennessee.

This is a credible source because it was published by a scholarly journal. It is also current since it was published in December, 2014. However, I cannot tell whether it has been peer reviewed or not from the database. The source is about finance in public schools. But I might not use this source in my research paper because I want to focus more
on how schools get their funding from government. I think this source is not quite relevant.

Tran, Samantha. "Putting Student Success At The Center Of Planning And Budgeting."  

In this article, Tran uses her own experience of saving a financially challenged school to indicate that we should consider students’ achievement when planning funding for schools. Also, the article mentions how the school recovered by receiving help from programs and parents. This indicates that funding is crucial for student’s success.

This source is credible. It was published in September 2014 so it is relatively current. It is from a periodical scholarly journal which is established by Association of California School Administrators. It is peer-reviewed. This is an article about the relationship of funding and student’s success. So it is relevant to my research topic.


This is an article about the phenomenon that first-year college students who major in STEM tend to achieve less. It contains data from 1400 colleges. Based on the datas, the author states that for male students, higher level of autonomous motivation leads to higher academic achievement.

This article is trustworthy even though it is not peer-reviewed. It was published by a scholarly journal in November, 2014. So it is credible and current. This article is relevant to my topic because it focuses on student achievement. However, it shows the
opposite side of my opinion. The author draws conclusion from 1400 schools across the country. This indicates that there are schools with different amount of funding. But the author proves that student achievement is greatly related to autonomous motivation. So it indirectly shows that student can succeed no matter what their school environment looks like.


This is an article explaining the public school system in the United States. It shows that the amount of funding of public school is determined on the number of students who graduate and their standard test scores.

This article is trustworthy because it is peer-reviewed. It is from a newspaper names *New York Amsterdam News* that is established back in 1994. This article was published on July 11th, 2013. It was published within two years, so it is current. The article mainly talks about how public school get their funding. In this case, it is relevant to my topic.