

**Balancing the Governor’s Budget**

Declining revenue nationwide has made additional state budget cuts a realistic possibility. As a member of the West Virginia Governor’s Committee for Reelection, you have been asked to prepare a recommendation citing where to make additional cuts in the overall state budget. The governor has asked you to focus primarily on education and so the additional cuts must come from either public (secondary/K-12) education or higher education. Using ONLY the documents found in the document library, please prepare a detailed recommendation of the advantages and disadvantages of additional cuts to both areas and determine which area would be able to best accommodate any additional cuts.

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| **DOCUMENT** |  | |
| **Document 1:**  West Virginia Spending Cuts  2014 | Excerpt: (Pages 1-4)  O’Leary, Sean, and Ted Boettner. "Analysis of Governor’s FY 2014 Budget Proposal." (n.d.): n. page. *Policy Brief*. West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, Mar. 2013. Web. 3 June 2014. <http://www.wvpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2014-Budget-Brief.pdf>.  <http://www.wvpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2014-Budget-Brief.pdf> | |
| Article Summary: This article distributed by the WV Center on Budget and Policy brief provides an overview of the 2014 budget changes, budget trends and future challenges in WV funding. The article points out that “nearly half of the $75 million in proposed budget cuts are derived from higher education, which could result in steeper increases in college tuition.” | |
| Accuracy: | The article simply includes those cuts made by the Governor in his 2014 budget so it is very accurate. |
| Bias: | The article reflects overall spending but does focus on the extreme cuts to higher education so could include some bias. |
| Relevance: | The article is relevant as it directly indicates the amount of the WV state budget that is spent on public and higher education. It also shows the amount of cuts that each took during the 2014 budget year. |
| **Document 2:**  State Funding | *Examining Fiscal 2011-2013 State Expenditure*. Rep. Washington, D.C.: National Association of State Budget Officers, 2013. Print.  <http://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/State%20Expenditure%20Report%20%28Fiscal%202011-2013%20Data%29.pdf> | |
| Article Summary: This is an *excerpt* from the 2011-2013 state expenditure report and is compiled by all of the state budget officers. The article indicates the portion of the state budget that funds public education and higher education. The key with this report is that it does not specifically address state funding in West Virginia. So, although it is related to the issue it does not directly help with this specific scenario. | |
| Accuracy: | The article is derived from all of the state budget officers and so is very accurate. NASBO or the National Association of State Budget Officers has prepared the data and it appears to be the most recent available. |
| Bias: | Since the article is simply reporting the amount of the budget spent by states it does not provide any obvious bias. |
| Relevance: | This document would be extremely relevant if it specifically addressed spending in West Virginia. Since it is only a state average, it really does not assist in addressing this specific scenario and so is not really relevant to the problem. |
| **Document 3:**  Teachers Respond to Budget Cuts | Kelly, Melissa. "Readers Respond: What Can Be Cut from Your District's Budget and Not Impact Student Learning?" *About.com Secondary Education*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 June 2014. <http://712educators.about.com/u/ua/issuesineducation/budget\_cuts.htm>.  <http://712educators.about.com/u/ua/issuesineducation/budget_cuts.htm> | |
| Article Summary: This is simply a list of comments by educators as to how they believe the education budget should be cut. The responses are fairly “colorful” and show strong opinions about waste within the school districts. | |
| Accuracy: | This is really just a list of opinions from different teachers and so may or may not be accurate. |
| Bias: | The site obviously expresses the individual biases of each of the individuals responding. |
| Relevance: | The article has some relevance as it does suggest ways of cutting waste from secondary education. |
| **Document 4:**  West Virginia School Funding | "2014 Executive Summary." *2014 Executive Summary*. Education Law Center, 2014. Web. 05 June 2014. <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/ExecutiveSummary\_2014.htm>.  <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/ExecutiveSummary_2014.htm> | |
| Article Summary: This is a summary of the condition of state school finance systems with a focus on the fair distribution of resources to the neediest students. Based on this analysis, West Virginia is rated as high on almost all areas. | |
| Accuracy: | The document is accurate as it just indicates the changes in funding. |
| Bias: | The document does not really have any bias other than the focus of the document on resources and their distribution to needy students. The article argues that “student poverty is the most critical variable affecting funding levels and can serve as a proxy for other measures of disadvantage, such as racial segregation, limited English proficiency, and student mobility.” |
| Relevance: | The document is relevant but is focused on funding as it relates to funding of student need. The document argues that “a sufficient overall level of funding is a crucial starting point for any funding formula to be successful.” |
| **Document 5:**  Importance of Public Education | *Why We Still Need Public Schools*. Washington, DC: Center for Education Policy, 2007. PDF. (Excerpts pages 7-13)  <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&ved=0CEgQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cep-dc.org%2Fcfcontent_file.cfm%3FAttachment%3DKober_Report_WhyWeStillNeedPublicSchools_010107.pdf&ei=5dCVU6GzJOvMsQSFh4GwBg&usg=AFQjCNHhoH2qUgtGeP5bb45aJQlO4C0glg&sig2=SAR1NGAuECULiL7p3WeRHQ&bvm=bv.68445247,d.cWc&cad=rja> | |
| This article provides a number of reasons for having strong public educational systems. | |
| Accuracy: | The article appears to be accurate but the date is 2007 and these reasons could potentially change. |
| Bias: | Since the article is from the Center for Education Policy it would have a bias toward the importance of education. |
| Relevance: | The article is relevant to give potential reasons for not cutting public education. |
| **Document 6:**  West Virginia Behind in Funding | Adducchio, Ben. "Report Says West Virginia Is Behind in Higher Education Funding." *West Virginia Public Broadcasting*. West Virginia Public Broadcasting, 1 May 2014. Web. 02 June 2014. <http://wvpublic.org/post/report-says-west-virginia-behind-higher-education-funding>.  <http://wvpublic.org/post/report-says-west-virginia-behind-higher-education-funding> | |
| This article indicates that the funding for higher education continues to be cut and in fact places the state second in the most cutting by the state. | |
| Accuracy: | The article appears to be accurate. |
| Bias: | West Virginia Public Broadcasting appears to be fairly unbiased. |
| Relevance: | The article is a 2014 article and is relevant to the importance of higher education. |
| **Document 7:**  Harm of Tuition Increases | Oliff, Phil, Vincent Palacios, Ingrid Johnson, and Michael Leachman. "Center on Budget and Policy Priorities." *Recent Deep State Higher Education Cuts May Harm Students and the Economy for Years to Come —*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 19 Mar. 2013. Web. 02 June 2014. <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927>.  <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927> | |
| This article indicates the percentage of cuts that West Virginia has taken and indicates the importance of higher education. | |
| Accuracy: | The article appears accurate. |
| Bias: | The article comes from the Center on Budget and Policy priorities which seems to be fairly unbiased. |
| Relevance: | The article directly relates to the potential cuts to higher education. |
| **Document 8:**  Unequal School Funding | Biddle, Bruce J., and David C. Berliner. "Membership." *Educational Leadership: Beyond Instructional Leadership: Unequal School Funding in the United States*. ASCD (Formerly Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), May 2002. Web. 02 June 2014. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may02/vol59/num08/Unequal-School-Funding-in-the-United-States.aspx  <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may02/vol59/num08/Unequal-School-Funding-in-the-United-States.aspx> | |
| This article indicates that West Virginia is currently funding their schools at a level that ranks them 8th out of the fifty states. Currently, West Virginia is providing each pupil with an average of $6,908 | |
| Accuracy: | The study is a 2002 study but the data is taken from 1998. This means that the data may have changed significantly given the changes in the economy. |
| Bias: | The study does not appear to have any obvious bias |
| Relevance: | The relevance to this scenario is limited because again, the data is old. |
| Relevance: | The article is quite relevant although again, the data is from 2002. |