The dollar debates: Comparing the implications of judicial versus political intervention for school finance reform

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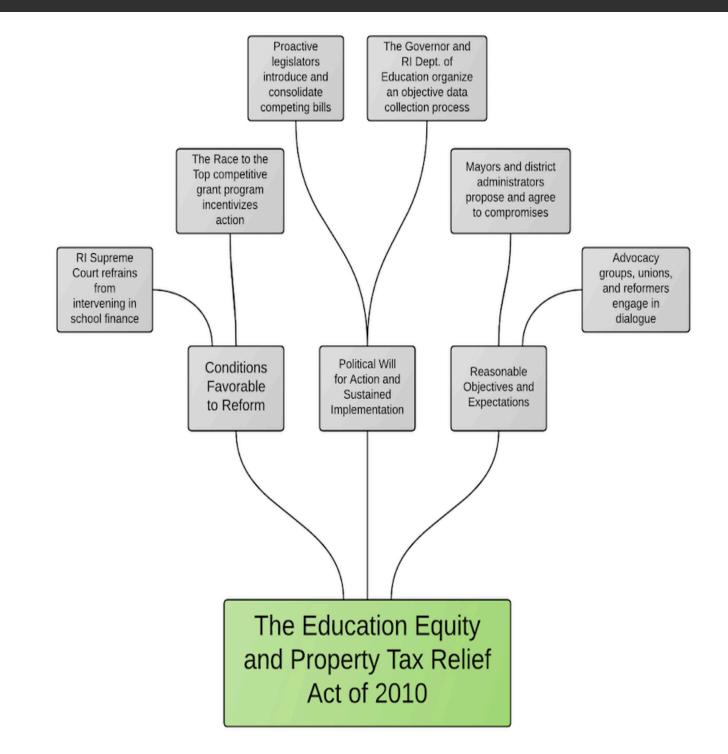


The Dollar Debakes: Comparing the Implications of Judicial versus Political Intervention for School Finance Reform Marissa L. Marandola

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Supreme Court chose to respect the state legislature's primacy in determining allocations. As a result, the state undertook a years-long, scientifically guided process to develop an acclaimed formula that enjoys enduring support in te political branches. The resulting Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act of 2010 produced the Fair Funding Formula, a foundation amount allocation mechanism that accounts for district and student need.

The Process



The Outcomes

Comparison of Design Elements Featured in Stakeholders' Proposal Formula Models and Elements Featured in the Fair Funding Formula

	Foundation Amt. Formula	Multiple Student Weights	ADM/RADM	EWAV	Minimum Share Ratio	Taxpayer Equity
R.C. Wood and Assoc.	Х	X			Х	Х
Joint Committee	Х	Х	Х		Х	
Funding Our Future	Х	X				Х
2007-2009 Bills	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Local Government	Х	Х		Х	X	Х
Fair Funding Formula	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х

Rhode Island's Average NAEP Scores, 2009-2015

		Grade 4 Math	Grade 4	Grade 8 Math	Grade 8
Data fram			Reading		Reading
Data from	2009	239	223	278	260
the National	2011	242	222	283	265
Center for	2013	241	223	284	267
Education	2015	238	225	281	265
Statistics.					

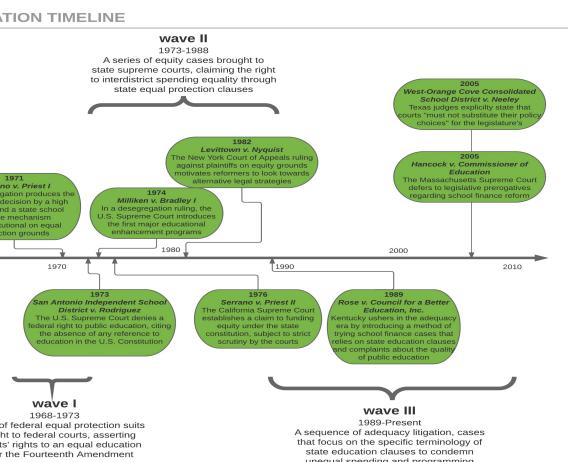
EDUCAT		NG LITIGA
1954 Brown v. Board The U.S. Supreme	of Education	Serrar California litig first major
to desegregate willingness to e fairness of publ	e indicates evaluate the	court to fir finance unconstit protec
1950		1960
	1955	
	Brown v. Board of Ed This implementation re deliberate speed" clau the courts' official er	uling's "all se signals ntry into
	education policym	daning
		A suite c
		brougl student under
Plaintiffs' Clai	ms Presented	l to Highest
		itigation, 19
Time Period	State Equa Protectior	al S n Clause C
Wave I and II	Claims 17 (95%)	1
		1
Wave III	18 (90%)	1
Total Waves I-	18 (90%) 35 (92%)	
Total Waves I-		
Total Waves I-		3
Total Waves I- III		3
Total Waves I- III	35 (92%)	3
Total Waves I- III	35 (92%)	3
Total Waves I- III	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	
	35 (92%)	
	35 (92%)	3
	35 (92%)	
	35 (92%)	3

-1.5

-0.5

Background

A Brief History of Education Finance Litigation



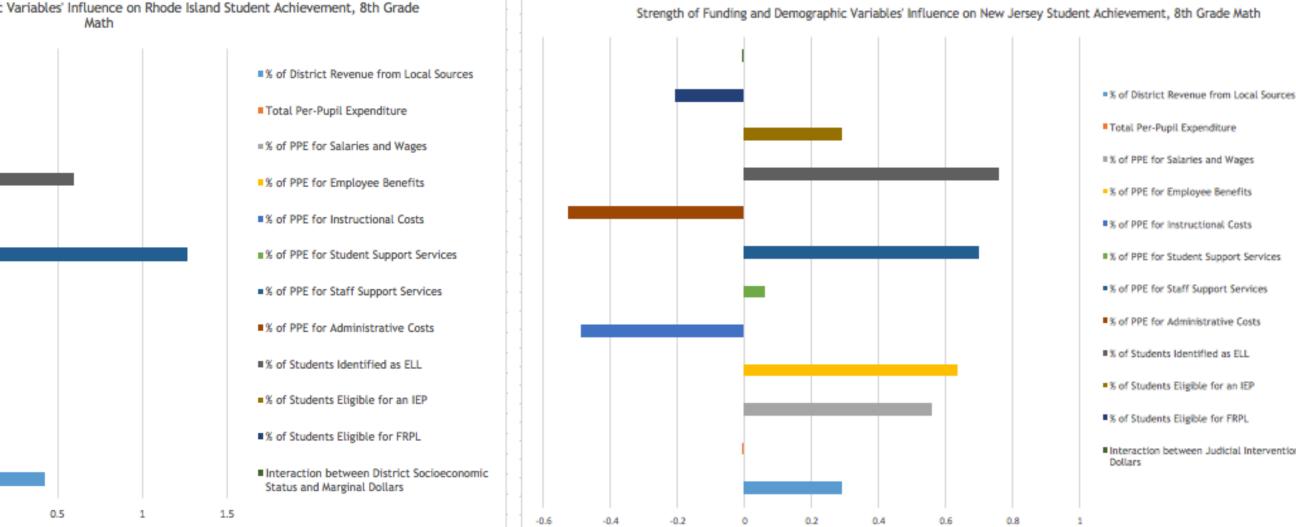
Case	State	Year	Decision on Equal Protection Clause Claim	Decision on Education Clause Claim	Case Out
Serrano v. Priest	CA	1971, 1976	Upheld	Denied	For
Robinson v. Cahill	NJ	1973- 1976	Denied	Upheld	For
Horton v. Meskill	СТ	1977, 1985	Upheld	Upheld	For
Seattle School District No. 1 v. State	WA	1978	No claim	Upheld	For
Pauley v. Kelly	WV	1979	Upheld	Upheld	For
Washakie County School District No. 1 v. Herschler	WY	1980	Upheld	Claim uncertain	For
DuPree v. Alma School District No. 30	AR	1983	Upheld	Upheld	For

Highest State Court Rulings on Equal Protection and Education Clause Claims for Wave I and Wave II Cases Resulting in Plaintiffs' Victories

How should we evaluate school funding mechanisms?

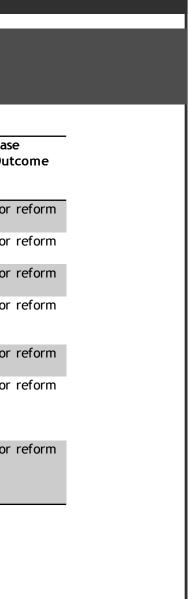
st State Courts in E 1971-1996	ducation Finance			Plaintiffs' C	laims Presented to Hig Litigatio	ghest State Courts in on, 1971-1996	Education Finance
State Education Clause Claims	Total Cases	Equity	Adequacy	Time Period	State Equal Protection Clause Claims	State Education Clause Claims	Overall Pro- Reform Outcomes
15 (83%)	18			Wave I and	5 (29%)	5 (33%)	7 (39%)
19 (95%)	20		Measures quality of	Wave III	2 (12%)	7 (44%)	8 (47%)
34 (89%)	38		educational outcomes	Total	7 (21%)	12 (40%)	15 (43%)
		Measures quantity of resources Seeks funding parity	Seeks to close racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps Imposes funding and programmatic remedies	https://upload.wiki	nedia		

inding Impact Student Achievement?









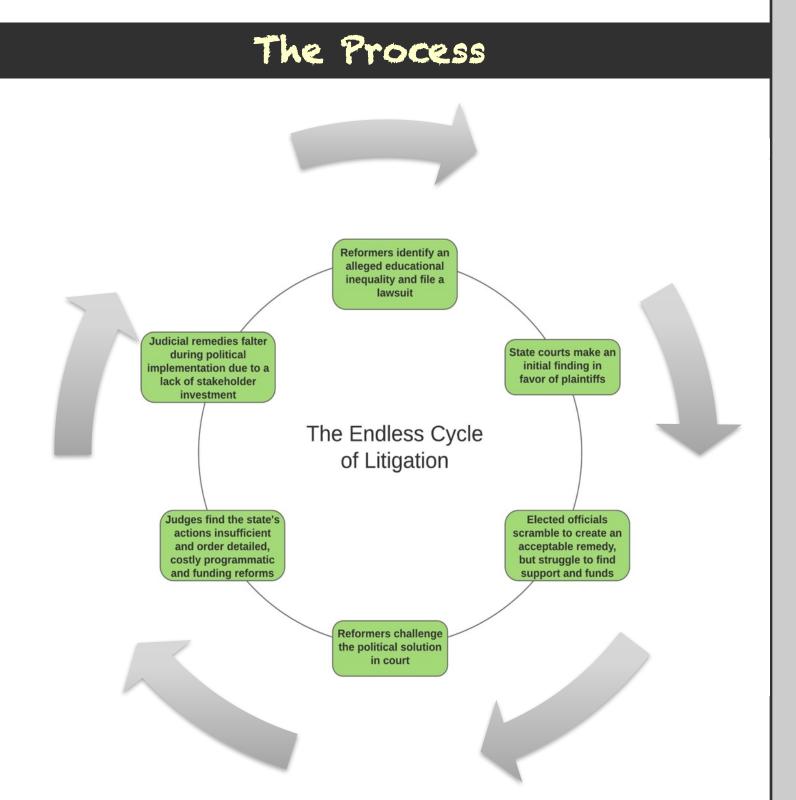




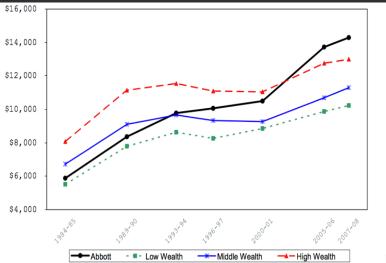
Interaction between Judicial Intervention and Marginal

New Jersey

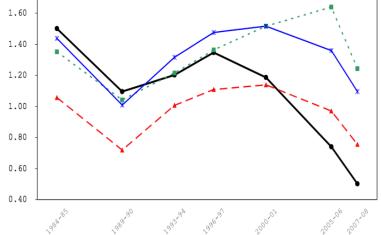
New Jersey has been embroiled in litigation since 1973, a costly process that has produced mixed results. Robinson v. Cahill I-V and Abbott v. Burke I-XXII demonstrate the risks inherent to judicial intervention: sprawling remedies and usurpation of the legislative prerogative. Further, rulings favorable to disadvantaged students continually falter during implementation, when the political branches lack the resources to enact a sweeping judicial policy.



The Outcomes



Regular Education Budget Per Pupil Across Wealth Groups, Abbott District Separate 1984-85 to 2007-2008



Property Tax Rates Across Wealth Groups, Abboth Districts Separate 1984-85 to 2007-08 Scale Scores on NAEP, New Jersey, 1994-2007

Grade/Subject	Year	Central City	Urban Fringe	State
Grade 4				
Reading	2007	211	232	231
	2005	209	224	223
	2003	201	228	225
	1994	190	225	219
Mathematics	2007	235	249	249
	2005	233	245	244
	2003	219	241	239
	1996	213	229	227
Grade 8				
Language Arts	2007	256	270	270
	2005	251	270	269
	2003	250	269	268
Mathematics	2007	273	289	289
	2005	260	285	284
	2003	255	283	281

Data from: Margaret E Goertz and Michael Weiss, Assessing Success in School Finance Litigation The Case of New Jersey (New York, NY: The Campaign for Educational Equity, teachers College, Columbia University,