Outline

I. Money Matters

WHERE WE STAND: America’s Schools in the 21st Century was an hour long program broadcast by PBS in the fall of 2008 to raise voter awareness on educational issues during that election year. It presents a frank evaluation of our educational system’s strengths and weaknesses.

Hosted by Judy Woodruff, Senior PBS News Correspondent, the documentary visits schools throughout Ohio, an important swing state that represents a range of socioeconomic and geographic school districts. The program features schools in urban Cincinnati, suburban Columbus, and rural Belpre.

While we will be looking at the school funding section, the total broadcast is well worth watching.

WHERE WE STAND: America’s Schools In The 21st Century main page
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wherewestand/

Where We Stand: American Schools In The 21st Century Part 1 - - (Introduces the program and mostly discusses global competition)
Where We Stand: American Schools In The 21st Century Part 2 - - (Mostly about teacher quality)
Where We Stand: American Schools In The 21st Century Part 3 - - (Mostly about student achievement)
Where We Stand: American Schools In The 21st Century Part 4 - - (Mostly about standards and testing)
Where We Stand: American Schools In The 21st Century Part 5 - - (Mostly about school funding).

The facts: 45 out of 50 states have been sued for the way they fund their schools; 24 out of 50 states spend less per pupil in low income districts than affluent ones; the U.S. ranks at the bottom worldwide in percentage of federal spending on education. THE QUESTION: WHAT’S THE BEST – AND FAIREST – WAY TO FUND OUR SCHOOLS?

You might also want to look at:
Diane Ravitch & Brian Jones Discuss Education Funding and Policy
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHcMBP81Vt8

II. Exploring Teacher Salaries . . . Ohio and Beyond

See Links on website