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Athletic Expenditures and Academic Achievement

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Poster Presentation ES

ATHLETIC EXPENDITURES AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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During the recent period of economic difficulty, public school funding has become a major source of controversy in many communities. In addition to commonly discussed topics such as standardized testing and pension plans, the monetary requirements of interscholastic athletic programs have faced considerable scrutiny. Though various organizations have conducted studies of the relationship between athletic expenditures and academic achievement, few of these localized studies have produced results that are easily extrapolated to most American schools. By analyzing a variety of research studies, I found a negative correlation between athletic expenditures and academic achievement. Additional research is necessary, however, to determine the significance of the correlation. It is clear that schools will need to grapple with difficult budget decisions in the near future, as alternative sources of athletic funding appear limited.