

LEANDRO V. STATE OF NC

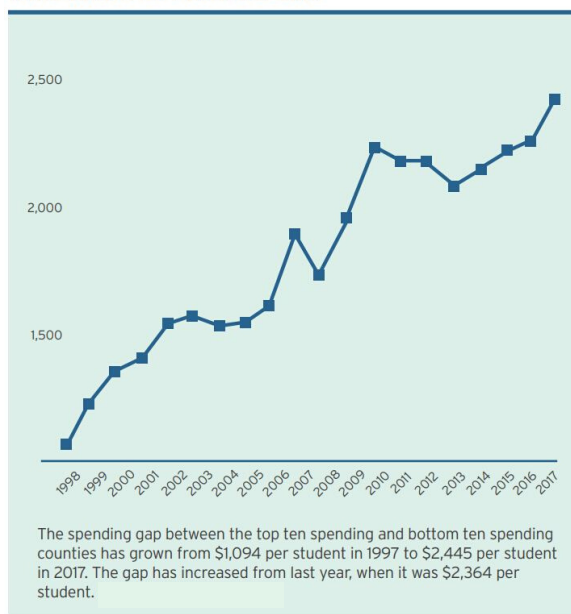


In 1994, five low-wealth school districts sued the State of North Carolina, arguing that students in these districts had been denied their right to an adequate education. Although the NC Supreme Court held in 1997 that the state constitution gives all NC students the right to a "sound, basic education," they also found in 2004 that in some cases, students were being denied that right. In 2017, the plaintiffs continued to argue that the State continued to deny this right to students in low-wealth counties. As a result, Judge Lee appointed WestEd, an independent consultant, to recommend ways for NC to comply with the initial Leandro ruling.

COUNTY-LEVEL SPENDING PER STUDENT (2016-17)



WIDENING SPENDING GAP



TIMELINE

<p>1994</p> <p>PLAINTIFFS ARGUED <i>that the wealth of a child's family and the child's community should not determine the quality of that child's education</i></p>	<p>LAWSUIT FILED <i>against State of NC by parents, children, and school districts in Hoke, Halifax, Robeson, Vance, and Cumberland Counties</i></p> <p>NC SUPREME COURT DECLARED <i>that all students are entitled to receive a "sound basic education"</i></p>
<p>2002</p> <p>THE LOWER COURT <i>found that the State of NC violated the students' right to a sound basic education and ordered the State to provide:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "a competent, certified, well-trained teacher" • "a well-trained competent principal" • "the resources necessary to support the effective instructional program" <p>NC SUPREME COURT UPHELD <i>the lower court ruling and retained jurisdiction</i></p>
<p>2004</p> <p>GOV. COOPER CREATED <i>the Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education</i></p> <p>JUDGE LEE APPOINTED WEST ED <i>to study and recommend a plan to remedy the constitutional violation</i></p>	<p>PLAINTIFFS REQUESTED <i>that Judge Lee appoint an independent consultant to recommend ways for NC to comply with the Leandro Elements</i></p> <p>2018</p>

"The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the state to guard and maintain that right." N.C. Const. art. I, § 15.