Prevailing Wage and School Construction Costs
1. The Truth: Prevailing wage laws DO NOT raise total project costs.

2. Fast Fact: 80% of economic studies find NO impact of prevailing wage on school construction costs.

3. Fast Fact: A study of 391 schools built in MI-KY-OH found no difference based on prevailing wage.

4. Fast Fact: Data from West Virginia and five neighboring states finds no statistical impact of prevailing wage on school costs.

5. Fast Fact: Eliminating prevailing wage results in lower-quality projects and less-skilled workers.

6. This Quote: “Prevailing wage regulations offer school boards some assurance that the project will be skillfully built and workers on the job will be carefully managed.”
   ~Peter Philips (2011)

7. This Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistically Significant?</th>
<th>Rural Schools</th>
<th>Urban Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Law</td>
<td>$96, 161</td>
<td>$114, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>$98, 104</td>
<td>$114, 86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. This Study: West Virginia’s Prevailing Wage: Good for Business, Good for Workers by Sean O’Leary, West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy (2015).

9. This Study: A Comparison of Public School Construction Costs: In Three Midwestern States that Have Changed Their Prevailing Wage Laws in the 1990s by Peter Philips, University of Utah (2001).

10. The Takeaway: Prevailing wage laws ensure better quality schools are built at no additional cost.