Poverty in Dallas

- Dallas has a greater percentage of people beneath the poverty line than other major Texas cities.*
  - Dallas has the worst child poverty rate (38%) among cities with populations of 1 million plus.
  - Dallas had the second largest growth in poverty rate from 2000 to 2013 among cities with populations of 1 million plus.
  - Dallas has the third worst overall poverty rate among cities with populations of 1 million plus.
  - Dallas' concentration of poverty in neighborhoods has grown from 18 in the year 2000 to 32 neighborhoods in the year 2013.

- While education plays a critical role in addressing the cycle of poverty, wages do as well

* Statistics derived from findings presented to the Dallas City Council by the 2014 Dallas Mayor's Poverty Task Force on August 20, 2014.
Minimum Wage vs. Wage Floor

- Current minimum wage
  - $7.25 per hour / $290 per week / $15,080 per year

- Subsistence at the federal poverty line
  - $11,770 per year

- Subsistence + EPI Guidelines (e.g. housing, amenities, nutritional diets, etc.)
  - $27,617

- MIT Calculation for Dallas County Wage Floor*
  - $10.37 per hour (1 adult)
  - $21.42 per hour (1 adult + 1 child)

*http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/48113
Problems and Potential Solutions

- In Dallas, wage stagnation is occurring while at the same time the rates of inflation and poverty are rising.
  - This makes our job of educating our children more difficult

- Money is not a panacea; however, Dallas ISD can lead on this issue by analyzing how our school system might better address the hourly wages of our employees along with other potential solutions
Analyzing Dallas ISD Hourly Pay Scales

- Considering wage floor
- Calculate the affect on hourly pay scales
  - Range minimum – maximum
  - Ranks top – bottom
- Other considerations
  - Procurement
    - Interlocal agreements
  - Employment
- Effect on budgets
  - General Fund
  - Special Revenue Funds
  - Food Service Fund