

Schools spend plenty

By Patricia Lee

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Michael Anthony's letter is well taken ("CCSD should outsource, consolidate," March 15 Review-Journal). Most Americans think that insufficient funding is the top problem with public schools in their communities. They face a constant barrage of rhetoric from public school districts that are crying poor and asking cash-strapped private-sector workers to pay more taxes to "save the children."

In reality, public school districts are spending an outrageous amount of money, more than the cost to attend private schools and even some colleges. The Cato Institute calculated that Los Angeles spends \$25,000 annually per student, and the New York metropolitan area spends about \$26,900. The District of Columbia's per-pupil outlay is \$28,170 — 155 percent more than average tuition at the famously pricey private academies of the capital region.

Many school districts, including the Clark County School District, are broken. They are much like a barrel with a hole in the bottom. The taxpayers do not need to throw more money into broken barrel. Let's fix the barrel first.