

Formula Characteristics – Consensus Achieved

Characteristic	Description	Next Layer of Inquiry
Scalable/Flexible	The formula should distribute resources fairly and logically under higher, lower or stable revenues.	
Predictable	The formula should provide predictable funding results to school districts.	
Equalization	The formula should maximize equalization so that those districts with the least amount of local resources get the most state funding.	
Student Weights	<p>The model should provide greater weights for specific student groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk • ELL • Special Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should Gifted and Talented be included? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, should it be linked to accountability (i.e. districts do not receive funding if they don't offer AP, dual enrollment, etc.)? ○ If so, should there be a cap? • If Special Ed is included, do you include a flat % to avoid the incentive to over-identify? • What level of weighting?
School Level Accountability	Require districts to identify school level spending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require reporting only? • Require specific spending levels? • Are there other accountability provisions? For example, should the formula tie funding to provision of certain offerings like AP courses?

Formula Characteristics – Items for Further Discussion

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Condensed Funding Stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the model consolidate multiple line items into one funding stream; allow districts to flexibly apply funding to maximize student outcomes while protecting at risk student populations. • Should certain categoricals be outside the formula? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation, capital, high cost special needs students? ○ If these are folded into the formula, should there be a fund for emergency capital needs? ○ If transportation funds are not included in the formula, is there a mechanism to ensure a consistent and adequate level of funding for transportation costs? ○ Should there be a separate funding stream for high cost special needs students?
Funding Level Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should revenues be increased, decreased or held stable?
Encourage Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the formula be used to encourage consolidation? • At a minimum, should the formula be structured to avoid subsidizing separate elementary and high school districts? • Should the law be amended to equalize tax rates to encourage consolidation?
Minimum Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should districts receive a minimum level of funding? • If not, can unfunded districts be relieved of certain mandates?
PTELL Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should education funding continue to support tax subsidies? • If not, should it still exist as a separate line item elsewhere?