



Foundation Aid Choices

Current Formula: Total Foundation Aid

$$\left[\text{Foundation Amount} \times \text{Pupil Needs} \right] - \text{Regional Cost Adjustment} - \text{Local Share} \times$$

Foundation Amount – Starting Point



Current State

- Successful Schools Study: analysis of the cost of educating general education pupils
- Same starting point for all districts

Opportunity for Improvement

- Last recalculated in 2015 due to changes in assessments. Updated for inflation annually ever since

Rockefeller Recommendation

- Short-term: an interim update to existing methodology with top 50% performing ELA/Math schools, no efficiency filter
- Long term: a study is needed to evaluate other approaches
- Use Northeast Region inflation, 5-year average



Current State

Additional weights for certain student needs

1. Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL)
2. English language learners (ELL)
3. 2000 Census poverty, and
4. Students in rural communities

Opportunity for Improvement

Weights may not capture current service costs

1. Diminishing FRPL quality
2. No differentiation in need among ELLs or students in poverty
3. 2000 Census rates are not current
4. Limited research basis for "sparsity" configuration

Plus, new needs have emerged

Rockefeller Recommendation

1. Replace FRPL with a 3-year average

Regional Cost Adjustment – Cost of Living/Labor



Current State

- Cost of living adjustment by labor force region as described by the Department of Labor
- Ranges from 1.0 to 1.425

Opportunity for Improvement

- Statute requires use of the 2006 analysis
- Regional bright lines makes for disparate treatment of similar districts

Rockefeller Recommendation

- Replace the Regional Cost Index with Federal Comparable Wage Index for Teachers (CWIFT), county level measure
- Alternately, consider an updated Regional Cost Index

Pupil Counts – weighted student counts



Current State

- Based on average daily membership (ADM) of the district, including charter school pupils
- Special education students are weighted at an additional 1.41
- Other pupil counts in the formula still utilize attendance (ADA)

Opportunity for Improvement

- Review weight on students with disabilities
- Move other ADA-based counts to ADM

Rockefeller Recommendation

- Eliminate the students with disabilities weight and create a new categorical aid for these students

Other Rockefeller Foundation Aid Recommendations



Non-Foundation Aid Rockefeller Recommendations

- Allow for up to 10% reserves for 5 years
- Cap STAR growth and reallocate savings within the county
- Fund mental health outside of the formula
- Fully fund differential cost for electric byoa

Executive Proposal



Executive Proposal

1. Updating 2000 Poverty with Current (multi-year) “SAIPE” poverty rates—same as the Regents proposal
2. Updating the Free Lunch counts with (multi-year) “Economically Disadvantaged” counts—same as the Regents proposal
3. Formula changes to the state sharing ratio that help the highest

Questions?