Tennessee Funding Review Engagement

Fiscal Responsibility

January 6, 2022 12:00 CT

TN Department of Education

Statement

The Tennessee Department of Education is excited to work with you on this opportunity to discuss the State's formula for funding public education. Before we begin, the Department would like to remind you of the following:

- Conversations on this topic are not intended to reflect on the current BEP funding formula. The current BEP funding formula will remain in place until a new funding formula is recommended to and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly.
- The public is encouraged to submit comments in writing to ensure that all communications are thoroughly documented and can be reviewed and considered in the future.
- Public comment is encouraged to focus on developing a new funding formula, rather than revising the current funding formula. Consider what should be funded in a new funding formula and at what level.
- Subcommittees will be responsible for reviewing public comment and making recommendations for what should be included in a new funding formula.
- While all committees, subcommittees, and members of the public should feel free to communicate openly, documents and records may be subject to public inspection pursuant to the Tennessee Public Records Act and may be publicly posted or otherwise made available .
- All recommendations that are submitted by committees and subcommittees will be reviewed and considered, but not all recommendations will ultimately be included in the proposed new funding formula.

Agenda

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Statement
- Roll Call and Attendance
- Discussion: Follow-ups from Meeting #3
- Feedback on Proposals
- Next Meeting Details

Review:
Meeting #3 Follow-ups

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January Preview

- **Meeting #4**
  - Review initial feedback buckets and provide prioritization of resources within each category
  - Materials: requested resources, requests for expert input, public comment
- **Meeting #5**
  - Review public comment on draft structure and then make final recommendations on formula components
  - Materials: public comment, expert access
- **Meeting #6**
  - Final policy considerations (ex. how to define each student groups, recommendations on policies)
  - Recommendations on reporting structures
  - Materials: requested resources

Prioritization

Finalizing Resource Prioritization Lists

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Finalize Supports and Services

Please finalize your supports and services recommendation list into the buckets outlined (and note which part of the formula they should be considered).

- **Must Have:** Those supports and services required as a result of federal and/or state law, for safety, or similar.
- **Should Have:** Those supports and services that may not be mandatory but are essential to ensure the student or student group receives access to a quality education.
- **Nice to Have:** Those supports and services that are not mandatory and not essential, but (1) may provide a clear and added benefit to students and (2) have a clear return on the investment related to student achievement and future success.
- **Long Shot:** All other supports and services ideas.

Feedback Summary

Feedback Consolidated for Subcommittee Comment and Review

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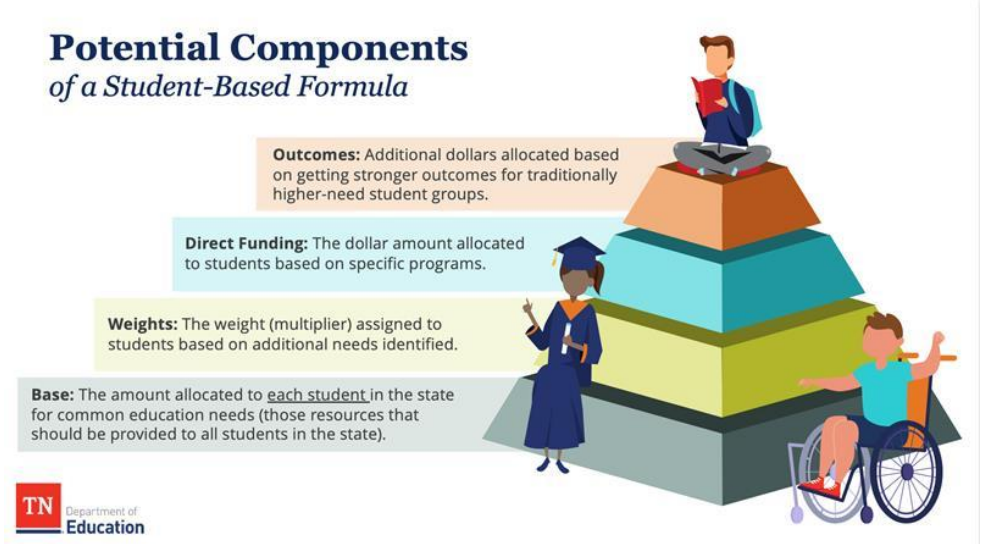
General Overview

Now please review the consolidated ideas on the following slides. Provide feedback on each.

- **Overall**
- **Base**
- **Weights**
- **Direct Funding**
- **Outcomes**
- **Other**

Overall Feedback Received (General)



- **Requested:** Districts should not receive less state funding than they currently receive in the BEP.
- **Requested:** Maintain flexibility for local district budgeting.
- **Requested:** Ensure whatever is currently funded outside of the BEP is included in a new formula.
- **Requested:** Local match should be reconsidered (county commissioners) AND maintenance of effort should not change (school districts).

Guiding Question: Are there any other broad recommendations you would include here?

Base

The feedback for the **base** includes the content currently being discussed in subcommittees (ie. the supports and services you believe are critical to include in a state formula).

- Nurses (*at the recommended ratio)
- School Based Supports: Counselors and School Psychologists (*at the recommended ratio)
- Teacher Salaries and Benefits
- Technology Sustainability
- Flexibility for Varied Local Needs (SROs, RTI2, Principals and APs, Middle School CTE, financial literacy)

Guiding Question: Consider these current priority areas. Are there others you would add here and how would you prioritize them?

Weights

The following are the areas that received the most positive feedback in terms of what should be **weighted**:

- **Unique Learning Needs:**
  - Economically Disadvantaged and Concentration of Poverty
  - Students with Disabilities and Gifted Students (to include tiers based on the cost to provide services)
  - English Learners (to include tiers based on English proficiency)
  - Dyslexia
- Rural
- Sparsity
- Charter Enrollment

Guiding Questions: Consider these current priority areas. Are there other areas you would add for weights here and how would you prioritize them? How might you think about tiers for students with disabilities and English learners?

Additional Dollars

The following are the areas that received the most positive feedback in terms of what may be considered for **additional funding**:

- Additional Support for Fast Growing
- Middle School CTE
- Innovative High School Models (IHS, STEAM, P-TECH)
- High Dosage Tutoring in 4th grade (Learning Loss Bill)

Guiding Question: Consider these current priority areas. Are there others you would add here and how would you prioritize them?

Outcomes

The following are the areas that received the most positive feedback in terms of what may be considered for **outcomes:**

- Early Postsecondary Opportunity (EPSO) Completion
- AP Course Completion and/or Passing
- Earning Industry Certificates or Certification
- Work-based Learning Completion Metric
- Reading proficiency (multiple ideas on measurement)
- Differentiated compensation support

Guiding Questions: Consider these current priority areas. Are there others you would add here and how would you prioritize them? Do you have ideas on how some of these could be measured? Do you recommend including all students, or only students with historic achievement gaps (low income, students with disabilities and/or English learners)?

Next Meeting Details

- January 18, 2022
- 11:30 a.m. CT
- Microsoft Teams
- Review and Provide Final Recommendations

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