

## Public Comment Analysis

**Date:** April 16, 2024

**Topic:** FORMULAS USED TO ALLOCATE REVENUE AMONG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

**Date of PEP Vote:** April 17, 2024

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### Summary of Proposed Item

This item covers Fair Student Funding (FSF), the largest formula used by the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) to fund District 1-32 K-12 schools. Specifically, Fair Student Funding gives principals and school communities flexibility in how funds are used, for both instructional and out of classroom supports for students. Funding is allocated based on general education, special education, and English language learning educational requirements, on a per pupil basis. Additional funding is added for students in temporary housing, in schools with especially high concentrations of high need students, students who may require academic intervention services, and students in CTE, transfer, specialized academic and specialized audition high schools.

Pursuant to Education Law section 2590-r and Chancellor’s Regulation B-801, the Chancellor shall develop objective formulas for use in allocating projected revenues among community school districts and their schools. The formula developed by the DOE, known as the Fair Student Funding formula, utilizes baseline and special categorical weighted multipliers to allocate revenue to schools. The DOE uses this formula, together with an estimate of the total sum of money available, to provide community school districts and schools with budget allocations for use in the school-based budgeting process set forth in Chancellor’s Regulation B-801.

Each year, the Chancellor shall submit the proposed allocation formulas to the Panel for Education Policy (the “Panel”) for approval. In response to the Fair Student Funding Working Group recommendations, we created two new weights this year; we are proposing to continue those weights for next year. A Students in Temporary Housing (“STH”) weight – to support students who are homeless or in temporary housing, and a Concentration Need weight – to support schools with a large proportion of students with high needs.

### Summary of Written Comments

The NYCDOE received the following comments through the dedicated email address for this proposal:

1. The DOE received 45 comments regarding the Baccalaureate School for Global Education (BSGE)’s eligibility for the specialized academic weight.
  - a. One commenter states that BGSE should not get increased funding because they are not a specialized high school.
  - b. Forty-four commentors request specialized academic funding for BGSE. They cite that all students are enrolled in advanced coursework through the



**Department of  
Education**

Chancellor David C. Banks

International Baccalaureate (IB) program, there are no specialized academic high schools in northern queens, and lastly that non-specialized high schools with similar programs such as Bard Early College Queens and Townsend Harris receive the specialized academic funding weight.

The NYCDOE did not receive any relevant comments through the dedicated phone line for this Proposal.

### **Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed**

Comment 1(a) states that BGSE should not get increased funding because they are not a specialized high school. Comment 1(b) states that

- 1) because all students are enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, there are no other specialized academic high schools in northern queens, and lastly that non-specialized schools with similar programs such as Bard Early College Queens or Townsend Harris receive the specialized academic funding weight.

Given the City's financial standing, we are not able to convert existing schools into portfolio high schools.

### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to this proposal.

### **Information Regarding Where the Full Text of the Proposed Item May Be Obtained**

The proposed Formula is available at:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy>.

The proposed Formula, as posted on the DOE website on March 1, 2024, will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy for a vote at its April 17, 2024 meeting.