

## **Public Comment Analysis**

**Date:** May 19, 2015

**Topic:** Formulas and Method Used to Allocate Revenue among Community School Districts and Schools

**Date of PEP Vote:** May 20, 2015

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### **Summary of Proposed Item**

The New York State Education Law and Chancellor's Regulation B-801 require the Chancellor to annually develop objective formulas for use in allocating the DOE's share of revenues among its community school districts and schools (known as the "FSF Formulas Weights" or "formulas"). On April 3, 2015, the DOE issued proposed formulas for the 2015-2016 school year. In them, the DOE proposed no changes to the formulas that were used to allocate dollars in 2014-2015.

### **Summary of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Suggested**

The public comments received since the DOE posted the FSF Formula Weights are summarized as follows:

#### **Comments Related to the FSF Weights:**

- One comment stated that the FSF budget does not benefit high performing students as the majority of funds benefit lower performing or at risk students.

#### **Comments Related to School Based Budgeting:**

- Some comments expressed concern that schools enroll new students over-the-counter without receiving any financial credit, and asked why the funds don't follow the students anytime they transfer to another school?
- One comment inquired: when will confirmation will be sent that the Fair Student Funding formula is fully funded, and, if FSF is not fully funded, when will schools find out their actual funding percent; what percentage of the initial allocation can schools rely on to be available to them; and when will school budget webpages be updated?
- One comment inquired whether schools will get their allocation in one allocation or at different points of the year?

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- A comment inquired whether more students are being sent to D75 schools than in the past, and, if so, whether this results in less funds going to schools in Districts 1-32 for SWD? How can schools be held accountable for spending ELL funding appropriately?

### **General Comments:**

Several comments related to the impact of funding on different types of schools and programs, as follows:

- One comment inquired whether more students are going to transfer schools and, if so, will they receive the funds necessary to provide the supports and resources needed to make adequate progress to graduation through credit accumulation and by passing Regents exams?
- One comment inquired: What has been the impact of the funds already spent on Transfer Heavy Challenge and Transfer Non-Heavy Challenge students?
- A comment inquired whether the new allocations being given to 130 Renewal, Community Schools & Persistently Failing schools impact current schools not being given additional funds to bring them to 100% of FSF funding?

Additional comments were received which were unrelated to the budget allocation formulas, such as comments concerning the timeline for scheduling school budgets, efforts to lobby the State for additional funds, funding separate from the allocation formulas, scheduling CEC meetings, and requests for copies of materials. Because these comments are not relevant to the matter under consideration, no response is required.

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

### **Comments Related to the FSF Weights:**

With respect to the first comment, Fair Student Funding provides additional resources to support needed services to students with specific academic needs, including students with disabilities identified as requiring IEP mandated instructional services, students who are learning to become English Proficient, and students below grade level academic standards, or at risk of falling below standards.

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### **Comments Related to School Based Budgeting:**

With respect to the first comment, the Fair Student Funding grade weights and portfolio weights are based on the audited enrollment snapshot of registered students as of October 31 of the applicable school year. Funding for students with disabilities requiring IEP instructional services is based on IEP recommended services as December 31 of the applicable school year. Funding for ELL services and Academic Intervention services are funded on a one-year lag, and are based on data from the prior year.

With respect to the second comment, school allocations will be finalized after the Budget Allocation Formulas are approved. At the time of the initial budget release, school specific information will be updated on each school's website.

With respect to the third comment, Fair Student Funding school budgets will be finalized for the initial allocation process, based on projected enrollment. FSF school budgets will then be updated twice in the school year, once in November/December, based on preliminary (unaudited) October 31 registers, and October 31 programs for students with disabilities, and again in January/February, based on final audited October 31 registers, and December 31 programs for students with disabilities.

With respect to the fourth comment, under Fair Student Funding, the dollars follow the students. Schools are required to meet the mandated needs of all student populations. Principals must work in conjunction with their SLTs to schedule their budgets in accordance with student mandated needs and their instructional goals as articulated in their school's Comprehensive Education Plan. Superintendents review all school budgets to ensure they are scheduled in accordance with mandated needs and the Comprehensive Education Plan.

### **General Comments**

With respect to the first comment, under Fair Student Funding, schools receive funding for the students enrolled in their schools based on the FSF weights.

With respect to the second comment, it is impossible to isolate the impact of specific dollars allocated to schools. Principals may allocate FSF dollars in accordance with their CEP.

With respect to the third comment, schools are provided an equitable allocation given significant needs and limited available resources.



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

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### **Proposed Budget Allocation Formula**

There are no changes to the proposed budget allocation formulas for the reasons set forth above. The item will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy on May 20, 2015.

The proposed allocation formulas can be obtained at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/May2015PEPFY2016BudgetFormula>