

MAEP Formula

MAEP Formula Conclusions

The MAEP Formula has flaws, but it is based on real, audited expenses. Real expenses are used in an effort to ensure the formula is not arbitrary, but this makes the calculation more specific and detailed.

Components

(Average Daily Attendance + High Growth) x Base Student Cost + At-Risk Allocation - Local Contribution + Hold Harmless Guarantee = MAEP Formula

MAEP Formula Allocation + Add-On Programs = Total MAEP District Funding

Definitions

- **Average Daily Attendance:** total aggregate attendance during months two and three of the preceding school year divided by the number of days during the period
 - *Notes: many bills have been introduced, and Ed Build also recommended, use of Average Daily *Enrollment* instead of attendance because a school district must account for every student enrolled
- **High Growth:** for any district which has had a consistent growth in Average Daily Attendance over the three-year period prior to the appropriation, the average percent of growth in Average Daily Attendance over those three years is added to the Average Daily Attendance for the district
- **Base Student Cost:** the funding level deemed necessary to provide an adequate education for one student
 - Calculated by averaging components of “successful and efficient” schools and districts—(1) instruction (teachers per 1,000 students); (2) administration (administration/staff ratio); (3) maintenance and operations (spending per 100,000 square feet, maintenance staff per 100,000 square feet); and (4) ancillary (librarians/counselors per 1,000 students)
 - Recalculated every four years; inflation adjustment in off years
 - FY 2020 Base Student Cost: \$5,570 (preliminary estimate)
 - *Notes: Base Student Cost is based on audited expenses and inflation calculations by the State Economist; the criticism of Ed Build’s formula is it set Base Student Cost at an arbitrary number set by the legislature (not educators) and failed to account for inflation
- **At-Risk Allocation:** 5 percent of the Base Student Cost multiplied by the district’s number of free-lunch participants on October 31 of the preceding year
- **Local Contribution:** using the second preceding year’s data, property value taxes and yield from mills based on local tax base is collected

- *Notes: capped at 27 percent of the program costs including the at-risk component
- **Hold Harmless Guarantee:** ensures a district receives an MAEP formula allocation equal to funding received in FY 2002
- **Add-On Programs:** items outside of program calculation
 - Transportation: amount of funding for transportation based on Average Daily Attendance of students who take school district transportation (set cost per student set be MBE rate table)
 - Special/Gifted Education: teacher unit added for each approved program in district, with funding based on certification and experience of approved teacher
 - CTE Education: half of a teacher unit is added for each approved program in district, with funding based on certification and experience of approved teacher
 - Alternative School Programs: 0.75 percent of the district's Average Daily Attendance or 12 students, whichever is greater, multiplied by the state average per pupil expenditure in public funds for the preceding school year