

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENTRevenues from State Resources

The responsibility for financing public education in Washington falls primarily upon the state. The major financing system is the basic education formula based upon a ratio of students to staff. For each 1,000 full-time equivalent students enrolled in the district, the state shall provide funding for that number of certificated and classified staff which the legislature establishes. The legislature allocates to the district a specified sum of money per certificated staff member to meet non-salary costs. To provide educational services beyond the levels possible under the basic education allocation, the district must depend upon state and federal special purpose funding programs and grants or excess property tax levies approved by district voters.

The state provides special purpose appropriations for programs of transportation, for handicapped children and for such other programs as it deems appropriate to assist schools. When it is optional for the district to participate in a program offering financial assistance, the board shall receive detailed analysis from the staff regarding both the advantages to be realized from the program and the additional costs in terms of staff time, impact on existing programs and new obligations that such a program may require. Before authorizing participation in such a program, the board shall first determine that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and that the program shall not detract from other programs already in operation.

Legal References: RCW 28A.150.250 Weighting schedule  
                   28A.150.370 Additional programs for which  
   legislative appropriations must  
   or may be made  
                   WAC 180-16 State Support of Public Schools

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