



<p>1. Why did the Legislature create the Equity in School-Level Funding Act?</p>	<p>Prior to the creation of this legislation, the law did not require school boards to allocate funds to local schools in a specified manner. Therefore, the decision of how much money each school in the state received of the \$12 billion in public school funding was completely up to local school boards. Since elected officials have often seen that "schools are not funded equally," the 2000 Legislature created the Equity in School-Level Funding Act (Ch. 2000-181, L.O.F.) to ensure that schools within a district receive at least an equitable percentage of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds based upon their student population. (See the Florida Education Finance Program Fact Sheet.)</p>										
<p>2. What is the Equity in School-Level Funding Act?</p>	<p>Section 236.08103, F.S., requires each school district to allocate <u>FEFP, lottery and discretionary local revenue</u> to schools based on each school's share of the revenue earned. The effect of this change will be to cause school districts to treat all schools equitably in the allocation of FEFP funds.</p>										
<p>3. When and how is the program to be implemented?</p>	<p>The Equity in School-Level Funding Act is to be phased in over a four-year period beginning with the 2000-2001 school year. School boards must provide each school within the district <u>at least</u> a certain percentage of the funds generated by that school based upon the FEFP. These percentages are set as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="872 1272 1235 1442"> <thead> <tr> <th>School Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000-2001</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001-2002</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002-2003</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003-2004</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School Year	Percentage	2000-2001	50%	2001-2002	65%	2002-2003	80%	2003-2004	90%
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<p>4. Is there an incentive in the Equity in School-Level Funding Act for principals to save funds at the school level?</p>	<p>Yes. Prior to the Equity in School-Level Funding Act, any funds that an innovative principal saved during a particular school year could be taken back at the end of the school year by the district. There was no financial incentive for principals to be extra efficient or creative. The Equity in School-Level Funding Act provides an incentive by specifying that all funds allocated to a school pursuant to the Act that are unused at the end of the fiscal year do not revert to the district. Instead these funds may be used for any purpose provided by law at the discretion of the school principal.</p>										

## Equity in School-Level Funding Act

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5. Does this law encompass ALL state and local funds for education?	No. Large amounts of money are left to be allocated to schools at the discretion of the local school boards, such as: technology funds, construction funds, two-mill money, Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) funds, instructional materials funds, and transportation categorical funds. <b>(See the Education Facilities Resources Fact Sheet, the Two Mill Money Fact Sheet, the Supplemental Academic Instruction Fact Sheet, and the Student Transportation Fact Sheet.)</b>
6. Are there any exceptions to who must participate in the Equity in School-Level Funding Act?	Yes. Districts that initially applied for charter district status pursuant to s. 228.058, F.S., and have been approved by the State Board of Education are exempt from the provisions of this act.
7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 236.08103, F.S. -- Equity in School-Level Funding Act
8. Where can I get additional information?	Florida Department of Education Office of Funding and Financial Reporting (850) 488-5142 <a href="http://www.firn.edu/doe">www.firn.edu/doe</a>  The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694  The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Appropriations (850) 488-6204