



Council for Lifelong Learning
**Florida Education Finance Program
 (FEFP)**

**Fact
 Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Florida Education Finance Program?</p>	<p>The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is the funding formula adopted by the Florida Legislature in 1973 to allocate funds appropriated by the Legislature to school districts for K-12 public school operations. The FEFP implements the constitutional requirement for a uniform system of free public education and is an allocation model based on individual student participation in educational programs. In order to ensure equalized funding, the FEFP takes into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the local property tax base; • costs of education programs; • costs of living (district cost differential or DCD); and • sparcity of student population. 								
<p>2. How are funds allocated?</p>	<p>The FEFP uses a unit of measurement for each student called a "full-time equivalent" (FTE). One FTE equals 900 hours or one school year of instruction provided to a student. Surveys are taken twice during the regular school year in each school to determine the number of students or unweighted FTEs that are enrolled in one or more of seven programs, which include basic education programs; programs for students with limited English proficiency; exceptional student education (ESE) programs; and vocational education programs (two more surveys are taken during the summer to determine the number of FTEs for Department of Juvenile Justice students).</p> <p>Each program has an associated cost factor that adds weighting to an FTE. The program cost factor reflects the relative cost of serving students in each FEFP program. The additional weighting increases the amount of funds a district is eligible to receive since the FTE is multiplied by the program cost factor. FTEs and the related cost factors are broken into the following two groups.</p> <p>GROUP 1:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>BASIC PROGRAMS</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>COST FACTOR</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kindergarten and Grades 1 - 3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grades 4-8</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grades 9-12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.113</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Student enrollment in basic programs (Group 1) is not capped.</i></p>	<u>BASIC PROGRAMS</u>	<u>COST FACTOR</u>	Kindergarten and Grades 1 - 3	1.007	Grades 4-8	1.000	Grades 9-12	1.113
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<p>3. How is the FEFP calculated?</p>	<p>FEFP funds are determined by multiplying the number of unweighted full-time equivalent students (FTEs) in each of the educational programs by cost factors to obtain weighted FTEs. Weighted FTEs are then multiplied by a base student allocation, as determined by the Legislature (\$3,413 for FY 2001-2002), and by a district cost differential to determine the Base Funding from State and Local FEFP Funds. A declining enrollment supplement, sparcity supplement, ESE guaranteed allocation, safe schools allocation, supplemental academic instruction allocation, discretionary tax equalization, and minimum guarantee allocation are added to the base funding to determine Total Funds (state and local FEFP dollars).</p> <p>District Cost Differential - adjusts funds based on cost differences of goods and services among districts.</p> <p>Declining Enrollment Supplement - assists districts that have a declining student enrollment by providing half the revenue, which would have been lost to the district with the decline in the number of students served.</p> <p>Sparcity Supplement - assists rural districts with sparse student populations (20,000 or fewer students).</p> <p>ESE Guaranteed Allocation - provides lump sum guaranteed funds for mildly to moderately handicapped or gifted exceptional student education services (these funds were <i>formerly</i> provided by program cost factors and required excessive teacher paperwork and a volatile allocation).</p>																		

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	<p>Safe Schools Allocation - provides funds for school safety based on student numbers and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Index.</p> <p>Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation - provides flexible funds for districts to provide supplemental instruction in any manner and at any time during or beyond the regular school year. Funds may be used for strategies including: class size reduction, extended school year, summer school, after school classes, mentoring, tutoring, peer assistance, and any other use determined by the school district to assist students in receiving a year's worth of knowledge in a year's time. (See the Supplemental Academic Instruction Fact Sheet.)</p> <p>Discretionary Tax Equalization - equalizes differences of local discretionary property taxes to \$50 per student.</p> <p>Minimum Guarantee Allocation - ensures a minimum level of funding per student for each school district.</p> <p>Total funds are comprised of state and local dollars. State funds are primarily generated from general revenue (sales tax revenue), while local funds are primarily generated from property tax revenue and are referred to as required local effort.</p> <p>Required local effort is the amount of funds the district receives from levying the state certified local effort millage rates on the district's ad valorem property. All districts levy the same millage, which raises more or less dollars per student depending on the value of the local property. The percent provided from local sources ranges from 10% to 90% of the total.</p> <p>The amount of required local effort that each district must provide to participate in the FEFP is subtracted from the total State & Local FEFP Dollars to determine state FEFP dollars. If a district has low property values, then the state funding, as a result of this subtraction, is greater. The converse is true if a district has high property values. The aforementioned subtraction step equalizes the funding per student.</p>
<p>4. What is Average Daily Attendance?</p>	<p>Currently, a student is considered in membership for funding purposes until withdrawn from public school or eleven days of consecutive absences. A student remains eligible for FTE membership if the student is in program membership for at</p>

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	<p>least one day during the survey period (one week in the fall semester and one week in the spring semester) and in attendance at least one day during the survey period or one of the six scheduled meetings preceding the survey period. The district receives funding for the full 180 days of attendance even though the student may have only been in attendance during the survey weeks.</p> <p>Student attendance can be measured by the use of an average daily attendance factor. The average daily attendance factor is computed by dividing the total daily attendance for all students by the total student membership and the number of days in the regular school year (180) by school and by district. This figure is then divided by the number of days in the regular school year. Beginning in the <i>2002-2003 school year</i>, the school district's FTE membership will be adjusted by multiplying by the average daily attendance factor. By adjusting the FTE by the average daily attendance factor, funding for public schools can then be adjusted accordingly and will provide an incentive for districts to require improved student attendance.</p> <p>This data will not require any new data collection by the districts or the DOE since attendance data is currently collected by the district and reported and maintained by the DOE.</p>
<p>5. What is the Task Force on Public School Funding?</p>	<p>Chapter 2000-181, L.O.F., creates the Task Force on Public School Funding to examine and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the funding of the public schools in Florida.</p> <p>The task force consists of 17 members, 15 of whom are selected by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives plus the Lieutenant Governor and the Commissioner of Education.</p> <p>The task force must submit final recommendations for changes to the public school funding formula by February 1, 2002.</p>
<p>6. How long will the FEFP be used in Florida?</p>	<p>Chapter 2000-181, L.O.F., repeals the FEFP funding formula effective June 30, 2004. The Legislature will have three legislative sessions to review the task force findings and determine what, if any, changes should be made to the FEFP before, or in lieu of, the 2004 repeal.</p>

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7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 236.081, F.S. -- FEFP Formula Section 236.013, F.S. -- Definitions Section 236.02, F.S. -- District Requirements for the FEFP Section 236.024, F.S. -- FEFP Legislative Intent Section 236.025, F.S. -- ESE Revised Funding Model
8. Where can I get additional information?	Request the Florida Department of Education's publication, <i>Funding for Florida School Districts</i> , by contacting: Florida Department of Education Bureau of School Business Services Office of Funding and Financial Reporting (850) 488-5142 www.firn.edu/doe/bin00042/home0042.htm The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Appropriations (850) 488-6204