



RHODE ISLAND

Description of the Formula

The state's current method of distributing aid uses a base appropriation equal to fiscal year (FY) 1998 aid. Funding increases are added to this base, distributed through ten categorical distributions, and since FY 2000 have been adjusted to reflect minimum and maximum aid increases over the prior year's funding level. The base appropriation is equal to funding levels enacted through the use of the old aid programs in place as of FY 1998. The ten categories of aid distribution include targeted, student equity, professional development, early childhood, student technology, language assistance, full day kindergarten, vocational equity, charter school, and group home aid.

District-Based Components

Density/Sparsity of Small Schools

Does not apply.

Grade Level Differences

Does not apply.

Declining Enrollment or Growth

Does not apply.

Capital Outlay and/or Debt Service

The Housing Aid program provides partial reimbursement of school construction projects. The reimbursement share ratio is based on a district's wealth compared to the aggregate state wealth, with a minimum share of 30%. Incentive bonuses are built into the formula for energy conservation, handicapped accessibility, and asbestos abatement projects. Regional districts are also entitled to an additional incentive bonus. The Board of Regents and state legislature must approve all school construction projects prior to implementation.

Transportation

Does not apply.

Student-Based Components

Special Education

Does not apply.

Compensatory Education

Does not apply.

English Language Learner/Bilingual Education

The Student Language Assistance Investment fund targets state resources to assist students that require additional language educational services. Distribution is based on a district's proportion of limited English proficiency students. Funding under this program is approximately \$31.7 million.

Gifted and Talented Education

Does not apply.

Revenue and Expenditure Information

State Mandates Restricting Revenue or Expenditure Increases

In 2007, districts' growth was limited to a statewide cap of 5.5% on each municipality's tax levy. This percentage will be reduced annually until it reaches 4% in 2013.

Property Assessment Ratios Used/Legal Standards for Property Assessment

Full and fair cash value or a uniform percentage not exceeding 100% within the statewide caps noted above.

Measure of Local Ability to Support Schools

Equalized property valuation per pupil, adjusted for a median family income ratio, is used in the school housing aid program and in calculating a tax equity index.

School District Budget and Tax Rate Procedures/Sources of Local Revenue

All 36 districts are fiscally dependent. Voter approval is required for budget and tax increases. Majority vote is required for approval. There are no limits on the number of elections that can be held in one year. The source of local revenue for schools is property tax.

State Support of Nonpublic Schools

Reimbursement of certain non-public textbooks only.