

WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA

NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY 2011-12



WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA

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- History of Weighted Student Formula
- What is Weighted Student Formula (WSF)?
- Proposed NPS Weighted Formula
- How is it utilized?
- Who benefits?
- What are the effects?
- Success Linked to WSF
- How Should Principals Spend Funds
- Conclusion

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- Weighted Student Formula (WSF) was pioneered in Edmonton, Alberta in 1976. Money follows students to the schools they choose while guaranteeing that schools with harder-to-educate kids (low-income students, language learners, low achievers) get more funds.
- It has been implemented in Cincinnati, Houston, St. Paul, San Francisco, Seattle, Oakland, Hawaii, Chicago, New York and Boston.

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- Weighted Student Formula is more successful when it is implemented with School Based Decision Making.

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- Under the weighted student formula, each school site receives a budget denominated in dollars instead of positions and decides what staff and non-staff items to purchase with that money.
- The District determines the required core staff and non-staff items that must be purchased.
- Principals are given more control over their budgets and decisions that affect their students and staff.

Elementary School –Weighted Funding (Ex.)

Category	# of Students	Rate (\$)	Funding Amount
Elementary	645	7,400	\$ 4,773,000
Elementary	525	600	315,000
Middle	120	700	<u>84,000</u>
Total General Funding			\$ 5,172,000
Special Education:			
LLD	50	8,600	\$ 430,000
BD	25	9,080	<u>\$ 227,000</u>
Total Sp Education			657,000
At-Risk	645	660	425,700
LEP	30	850	25,500
Total Budget			\$ 6,280,200

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- Each student is allocated a base amount Per Pupil based upon a weighted formula. The formula is assigned different weights to provide additional funds for Special Education, At-Risk, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students to address their needs.
- The District determines the required core staff and non-staff items that must be purchased.
- Principals determine the staff and non-staff items that will be purchased.

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- Each school is charged an average salary for a teacher.
- Using Average salaries ignores the differences in teacher salaries
 - Example, a school with more novice teachers would have more funds to utilize than a school with more veteran teachers if actual salaries were used.
- Schools are provided with the cost for Non-staff items.

EFFECTS of WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA

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- Brings transparency to school financing
- Allocates funding Per Pupil
- Provides equity in funding
- Funding follows the student from one school to the other
- Provides Autonomy
- Provides parents with school choice.
- Decentralizes decision making

WHO BENEFITS

- Makes it real simple for parents and the public to understand how much money is in the school and what it is supposed to be used for.
- Gives parents and teachers a voice into how the money should be spent.
- The dollars follows the students.
- Levels the playing field for each school.
- Principals gain greater autonomy.

SUCCESS LINKED TO WSF

- William Ouchi of UCLA said “the weighted student formula causes all schools to compete for students, develop specialized programs and become like magnet schools”.
- Good student performance has followed the weighted per pupil model, Ouchi said.
- In Edmonton, 90 percent of the children read at or above grade level, he said. Houston out performs Los Angeles by 10 points at every grade level on the Stanford Achievement Test since moving to the weighted-student formula, while Seattle outperforms Chicago on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, the standardized test that those systems use.

How Should Principals Spend Funds

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- **When you give principals freedom what do they do with their money?**
- According to Dr. William Ouchi of UCLA, What they should do is reduce the hiring of administrative staff at the school and increase the number of classroom teachers. And then use their freedom over curriculum, schedule, and staffing to further reduce total student load.

CONCLUSION

- William Ouchi of UCLA's Anderson School of Management found that the decentralized public school districts and private Catholic schools had significantly less fraud, less centralized bureaucracy and staff, more money at the classroom level, and higher student achievement.