

# STUDENT BASED ALLOCATION 101

Student based allocation funding formulas, also known as weighted student funding, distribute district funds equitably across schools based on the educational needs of each student type.

## TRADITIONAL FUNDING FORMULAS



Keep most funds – both school and district level – under district control



Budget funds for special programs, not for student types



Limit principal's budgetary authority



Distribute staff to schools based on enrollment counts

### INHERENT FLAWS:

Uneven funding distribution within districts



**SIMILAR SCHOOLS MAY RECEIVE DIFFERENT FUNDING**

**LACK OF AUTONOMY FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND LEADERS**



**5%** Typical principal's budget authority. Schools lack flexibility to meet needs.

**RESOURCES ARE BASED ON AVERAGES – NOT ACTUAL STUDENT NEED OR STAFF SALARIES**

Schools do not receive resources in proportion to student need.

## A STUDENT BASED ALLOCATION MODEL



**Dollars, not fixed staff positions or purchased materials, are distributed to schools based on students**



Objective, deliberate, measurable characteristics of each student are weighted in dollar terms; possibilities include:

- ✓ **POVERTY**
- ✓ **LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**
- ✓ **HOMELESSNESS**
- ✓ **DISABILITY AND/OR GIFTEDNESS**
- ✓ **GRADE SPAN (high school, elementary, etc.)**



In a more advanced model, central office budget comes out of school funds either through “charge-back” (services that schools must pay for) or “buy-back” (services that a school may purchase if it is the best option for them).

## PRIMARY BENEFITS OF SBA



### EQUITY

Funds are allocated on a per-pupil-type basis to any eligible school the student attends

### TRANSPARENCY

Funding formula is simple and accessible to all stakeholders

### AUTONOMY

Schools have autonomy to individualize resources to match their staff and students' strengths and needs

### ACCOUNTABILITY

School- based accountability hinges on equitable per pupil funding and school level autonomy

SBA is increasingly being used in large urban districts like Boston, Denver and Houston.