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.

**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.