



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

**UPSFF Working Group
Meeting
September 27, 2018, 3:30-5:00pm**

DRAFT Minutes

- Introductions
- Discussion of the Adequacy Study
 - Review of history and background
 - Study was launched in September 2012; Report released December 2013
 - Review of key issues and dual methodologies (PJ Panel and Successful Schools)
 - Review of the key recommendations of the Adequacy Study
 - At-Risk - Study identified the need for an at-risk weight. The definition that was created in FY15 was more comprehensive than the definition recommended in the study
 - UPSFF weights that had the biggest discrepancy between FY15 and the recommendations were increased, which consequently increased the overall funding to LEAs. In particular, the following grades and special categories were increased: middle grades, high school grades, alternative and adult schools, English Learners, and the creation of at risk.
- Comparison of FY15 and FY19 funding amounts
 - Discussion about the alternative funding weight and at-risk funding
 - Discussion about summer school funding vs. at-risk funding
 - Group reviewed the weights and per-pupil funding amounts for FY15 compared to FY19
- Working group provided thoughts and reactions
 - Question about the specificity of the two methodologies. The methodologies looked at class size, types of instructors, wrap-around services, and other factors, so it was fairly detailed.
 - Comment about updating the assumptions that the Adequacy Study references to see how well the study applies to today's best practices. Is a "successful school" defined the same now as it was when the study was performed?
- Focus Areas
 - The group reviewed the survey results from the last meeting: at-risk, special education funding, and EL funding are the top three areas that the group voted to explore.
 - At-risk: recommendations from the working group include looking at the current definition of at-risk, studying how high-quality schools are spending their at-risk funding, the idea of stratifying at risk either by types of at risk students or concentrations of at-risk students
 - EL: tracking the status of first-year identifications; what assumptions were used to calculate a funding recommendation?

- Special Education: study the best practices of allocating funding to see how that could affect funding
- Public Comment period
 - Study the breakdown of funding categories - i.e. general education vs. special education vs. at-risk
 - Question about the rationale for the general education weights and why the lower grades are not funded as high as the high school grades. For example, 3rd grade is considered an indicator for the school to prison pipeline - shouldn't that funding be higher to prevent students from falling behind so early?
 - Request to see case studies of LEAs that are doing a good job educating at-risk students. The Bold Performance Schools released by EmpowerK12 may be a good source of information.