

The Uniform Per Student Funding Formula

Recommendations for FY 2009

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The Statutory Basis

- The DC School Reform Act of 1995:

Requires the Mayor and Council to devise a formula to fund the District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) system and the public charter schools on the same per pupil basis

- Was first enacted by the Council in fall 1998 and has been amended several times

- Funding is tied to enrollment and has to be uniform for all students. This means that dollars follow the students

- Differences are permitted for students:

- Who are at different grade levels
- Who receive special educational services
- Who do not meet minimum literacy standards, including English language learners
- Who receive room and board in a residential setting

The UPSFF: What it Does

- ❑ Sets a minimum per pupil foundation for general education and overhead costs
- ❑ Applies add-on percentage weights for higher cost special needs and grade levels
- ❑ Determines the bottom-line DCPS and public charter school budget

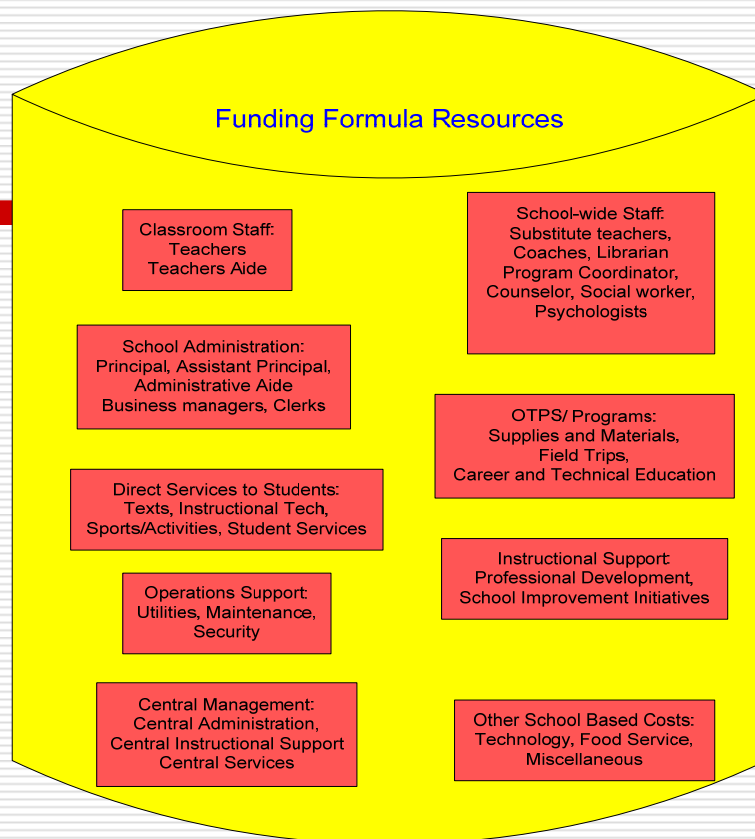
The UPSFF: What it Covers

- ❑ The UPSFF Covers local funding only for:
 - ❑ School-based instruction and pupil support
 - ❑ Non-instructional services (such as facilities and security)
 - ❑ Administration, instructional support (e.g., standards, curriculum, testing) and other overhead
- ❑ The per-pupil amounts and weights are based on:
 - ❑ **Estimates of the resources needed to operate each prototypical elementary, middle, and high school.** These resources include specific numbers of classroom staff (e.g. teachers and teachers' aides); school-wide staff (e.g. substitute teachers, reading and math coaches, librarian, program coordinator, counselor, social worker, psychologists, and custodians); school administration (e.g. principal, assistant principal, administrative aide and business manager); and other program costs (e.g. supplies and materials, field trips, texts, professional development, utilities, central administration, etc.)
 - ❑ **Estimates of the cost of complying with legal requirements** for the education of special education students at four different levels of service, summer and extended school year as required by students' IEPs.
 - ❑ **Practices in other jurisdictions** which establish per-pupil amounts used in state aid and minimum spending requirements

The UPSFF: What it Does Not Cover

- ❑ The UPSFF Does Not Apply to:
 - ❑ Federal Funds
 - ❑ Intra-District or private funds
 - ❑ Costs that are considered state-level responsibilities:
 - State Education Agency functions (such as work permits, child census, Impact Aid survey, hearings and appeals, employee certifications, juvenile justice system instruction; and
 - Private school tuition and transportation for students with disabilities

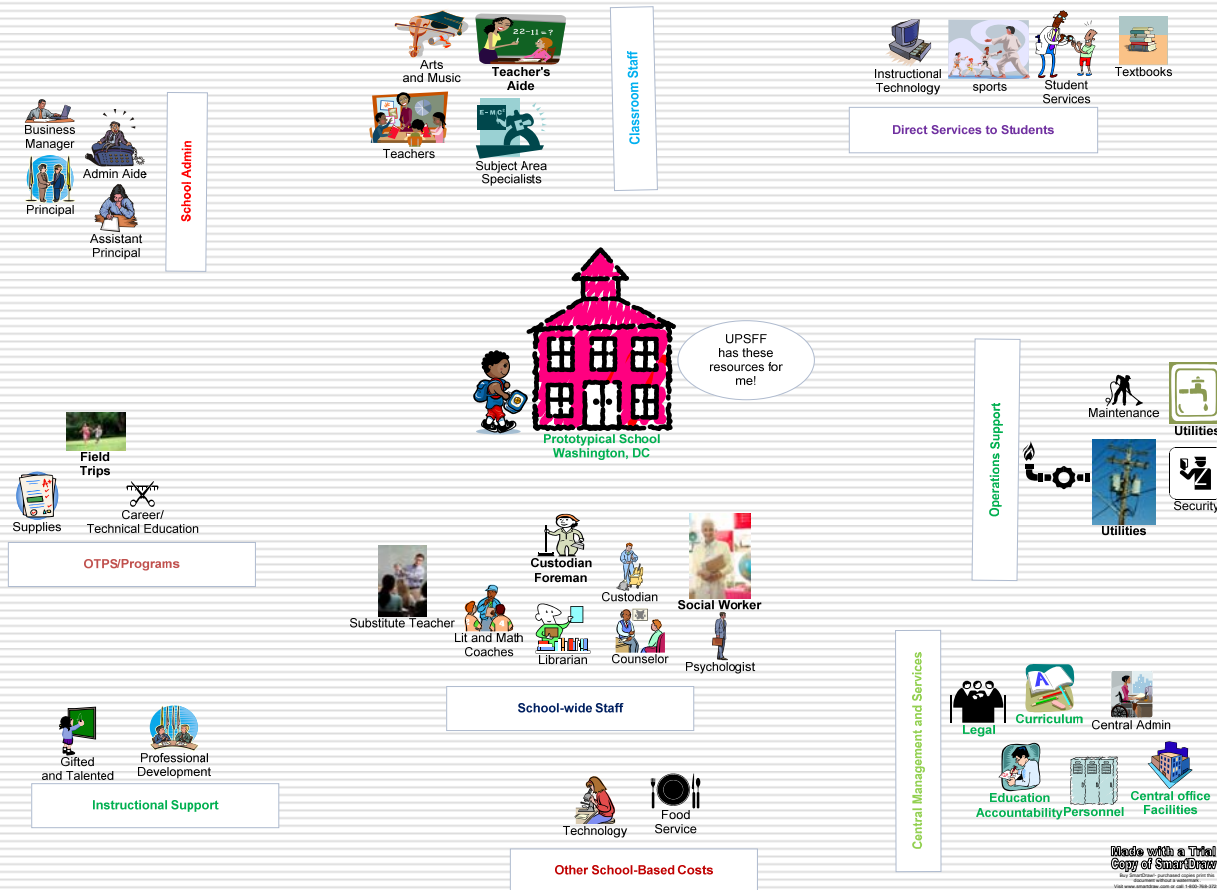
UPSFF Market Basket of Goods and Services and Per Pupil Cost



Per Pupil Cost

Major Programs	2008	2009	Increase	Percent Increase
Pre-School	\$ 9,654	\$ 11,752	\$ 2,098	22%
Pre-Kindergarten	\$ 9,654	\$ 11,401	\$ 1,747	18%
Kindergarten	\$ 9,654	\$ 11,401	\$ 1,747	18%
Grades 1-3	\$ 8,572	\$ 8,770	\$ 198	2%
Grades 4-5	\$ 8,322	\$ 8,770	\$ 448	5%
Grades 6-8	\$ 8,322	\$ 9,033	\$ 711	9%
Grades 9-12	\$ 9,737	\$ 10,173	\$ 436	4%

Resources In A Prototypical School



Differences Between the UPSFF and the DCPS Weighted Student Formula (WSF)

- While the WSF also uses a base amount and weightings, the differences include:
 - DCPS uses its own formula to distribute funds to individual schools for their staff, supplies and miscellaneous other purposes
 - The WSF does not cover security, utilities, maintenance, payroll, budget, and other administrative and non-instructional overhead

UPSFF Foundation Amount

Year	Foundation	Percent Change
Year 2002	\$5,907.00	N/A
Year 2003	\$6,555.00	10.97%
Year 2004	\$6,551.00	-0.06%
Year 2005	\$6,903.60	5.38%
Year 2006	\$7,307.47	5.85%
Year 2007	\$8,002.06	9.51%
Year 2008	\$8,322.00	4.00%
Year 2009 Proposed	\$8,770.00	5.38%

- ❑ The foundation typically rises each year by inflation (measured by the CPI)
- ❑ In 2003, 2005 and 2007 and 2009, the foundation was adjusted beyond inflation to help cover cost increases and changes in assumptions.

OSSE Recommendations For FY 2009

- **Recommendation # 1:** It is recommended that the **Uniform Per Student Funding Formula foundation for Fiscal Year 2009 be set at \$8770, an increase from the FY 2008 foundation of \$8322.**

- **Fiscal Impact:** Adoption of this recommendation would result in an approximate increase of \$32.59 million dollars over the amount generated from the FY 2008 foundation. However, two important assumptions to note are: 1) the amount \$32.59 million refers to the increase in foundation alone; and 2) it is based on the projected enrollment for both DCPS and charter schools.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

- **Recommendation # 2:** It is recommended that the grade level categories and weightings in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula, DC Code 38-2904, be amended as displayed in the table below.

Grade Levels	Current Weights	Recommended 2009 Grade Level Weights
Pre-School	1.16	1.34
Pre-K & Kindergarten	1.16	1.30
Grades 1-3	1.03	1.00
Grades 4-5	1.00	1.00
Grades 6-8	1.00	1.03
Grades 9-12	1.17	1.16
Alternative schools	1.23	1.17
Special education schools	1.17	1.17
Adult	0.75	0.75

- **Fiscal Impact:** Adoption of this recommendation would result in an approximate increase of \$16.2 million dollars over the amount generated from the FY 2008 add-on weights. The estimated fiscal impact is calculated based on projected enrollment for FY 2009 for both DCPS and charter schools.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

- **Recommendation # 3:** It is recommended that the add-on weights for Special education Levels 1 – 4 for FY 2009 and beyond be set as displayed in the “Recommended” column of the table below.

Special Education Service Level	Recommended Special Education Add-on Weights for FY 2009	Resulting Per Pupil Amount for FY 2009
Level 1	0.52	\$ 4,560
Level 2	0.79	\$ 6,928
Level 3	1.36	\$ 11,927
Level 4	2.37	\$ 20,784

- **Fiscal Impact:** Adoption of this recommendation would result in an approximate amount of \$4.2 million over the amount generated from the FY 2008 special education add-on weights, and weights for summer school, English Language Learners (ELL), residential schools and extended school year (ESY) services.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

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- **Recommendation # 4:** It is recommended that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Education, explore the possibility of establishing and administering a one-time grant fund for piloting several inclusion model schools that provide special education services to high intensity disability need students in the least restrictive environment. Criteria for administering the grant shall be determined by the State Superintendent of Education.

 - **Fiscal Impact:** To be determined.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

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- **Recommendation # 5:** It is recommended that the per pupil costs in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for school-nurse services be removed from the UPSFF. Funding for school nurses is recommended to be included in the budget of the Department of Health (DOH) to enable the DOH to place full-time nurses in all public elementary and middle schools in the District. In the event that this arrangement fails to materialize in FY 2009, the per-pupil amount that had been removed for implementing this recommendation shall revert back to the UPSFF within FY 2009 and the base shall be recalibrated to account for the reverted amount.

 - **Fiscal Impact:** The fiscal impact would be determined by the DOH.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

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- ❑ **Recommendation # 6:** It is recommended that the UPSFF continue to provide funding for school security on a per-pupil basis.
 - ❑ **Fiscal Impact:** There is no added fiscal impact if the current practice is kept.

OSSE Recommendations for FY 2009

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- **Recommendation # 7: Keep the FY 2009 facilities allowance at the FY 2008 level.** It is recommended that a methodology for funding charter schools' facilities needs be developed for implementation during FY 2010. The methodology for calculating the facilities allowance shall be realistic, and the amount adequate, and equitable.
 - **Fiscal Impact:** There would be no additional costs to the city for implementing this recommendation.

Total Fiscal Impact

□ **Total Fiscal Impact: \$52.99 million**

- Foundation (only): \$32.59 million
- Grade level weights: \$16.2 million
- Special education, English Language Learner and summer school weights: \$4.2 million

Process Involved in Developing UPSFF Recommendations

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- ❑ Convening of the Technical Working Group (TWG)
 - ❑ Identification and Analysis of Priority Issues
 - The OSSE and members of the TWG identify issues for research and analysis at the first meeting of the TWG each year. The issues are then prioritized based on need and input from the TWG.
 - OSSE staff collect data from various sources such as DCPS, charter schools, non-profit organizations and education stakeholders, reports from the Department of Education, and practices in other jurisdictions. These data are analyzed and background papers prepared for the TWG
 - Ad hoc committees. In order to manage multiple issues simultaneously, the TWG establishes ad hoc committees to analyze separate issues for presentation to the larger TWG. In 2007, the OSSE convened 6 meetings of ad-hoc committees to examine issues such as: school health funding in the UPSFF; security related funding in the UPSFF; fixed cost related funding in the UPSFF; funding charter school teacher retirement in the UPSFF.
 - ❑ Development of Recommendations
 - The OSSE annually prepares draft recommendations for TWG comments, based on the collective work of the TWG. OSSE General Counsel reviews the draft recommendations and TWG comments for the legal sufficiency of the recommendations.
 - Policy makers are briefed on the proposed recommendations prior to development and submission of the final version
 - OSSE submits a final version of the recommendations for approval by the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia