

Tennessee Funding Review Engagement

Rural and Small Districts Subcommittee

November 18, 2021 | 11:30 CST / 12:30 EST | [MS Teams Meeting](#)

Statement

The Tennessee Department of Education is excited to work with you on this opportunity to discuss the State's formula for funding public education. Before we begin, the Department would like to remind you of the following:

- Conversations on this topic are not intended to reflect on the current BEP funding formula. The current BEP funding formula will remain in place until a new funding formula is recommended to and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly.
- The public is encouraged to submit comments in writing to ensure that all communications are thoroughly documented and can be reviewed and considered in the future.
- Public comment is encouraged to focus on developing a new funding formula, rather than revising the current funding formula. Consider what should be funded in a new funding formula and at what level.
- Subcommittees will be responsible for reviewing public comment and making recommendations for what should be included in a new funding formula.
- While all committees, subcommittees, and members of the public should feel free to communicate openly, documents and records may be subject to public inspection pursuant to the Tennessee Public Records Act and may be publicly posted or otherwise made available .
- All recommendations that are submitted by committees and subcommittees will be reviewed and considered, but not all recommendations will ultimately be included in the proposed new funding formula.



Agenda

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Statement
- Roll Call and Attendance
- Discussion: Follow-ups from Meeting #1
- Create List of Resource Needs and Categorize
- Next Meeting Details



Review: Meeting #1 Follow-ups

Friendly Reminders

- To maximize your experience on the committee, please make sure to review the PPT deck that was sent.
- It is strongly encouraged that you engage with your stakeholder communities between meetings. Solicit as much feedback as possible on the recommendations and make sure you incorporate into the subcommittee discussion what you hear and what you read in submitted public comment.
- There are no limitations on who you talk to, when, for how long, etc.



Your Expertise

- Each member of the committees carry expertise. You don't have to be a school finance expert or a district official to contribute to the process.
- In fact, it is important that we reflect as many viewpoints as possible to inform a funding strategy. For example, the business community and higher education can identify what they need in PK-12 graduates and what different or additional supports might be warranted to graduate more prepared students. Families are experts in what their children might need to thrive in school and what support they need at home.



Discussion

Create List of Resource Needs and
Categorize

Process

- The chair will facilitate **idea sharing and discussion**.
- This is an **initial discussion and brainstorm** based on your experience and expertise, any initial feedback you've received and public comment.
- The most important piece is to ensure **every resource is listed and provisionally categorized** into one of the four areas.
- **You will revisit this list** and refine it over the next several meetings. Part of the engagement in between meetings will be to discuss the recommendations and solicit additional feedback.

General Overview

Please list **specific resources that you would like to see incorporated into the funding formula.** (In other words, what resources do you think are most important so that the cost of those resources can be included. It does not mean a district **MUST** spend money in a certain way, only that they would be funded to do so). Please indicate whether each resource is a:

- **Must Have:** Those resources required as a result of federal and/or state law, for safety, or similar.
- **Should Have:** Those resources that may not be mandatory but are essential to ensure the student or student group receives access to a quality education.
- **Nice to Have:** Those resources that are not mandatory and not essential, but (1) may provide a clear and added benefit to students and (2) have a clear return on the investment related to student achievement and future success.
- **Long Shot:** All other resource ideas.

Next Meeting Details

- December 9, 2020
- 11:30 CST / 12:30 EST
- [Teams Meeting](#)
- Categorizing and Costing Feedback

