

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS ON THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN RHODE ISLAND

I. What would be the best method of funding schools in RI?

(Suggested reading materials from the study outline: I a - h; II, III, IV)

A. Full funding by the state? Yes or No.

If yes, skip to section III below.

B. Funding divided between state and localities? Yes or No

C. If divided, should the funding be a formula approach based on:

1. Enrollment? Yes or No

2. Enrollment and community wealth? Yes or No

3. Enrollment, community wealth and student poverty level? Yes or No

4. Other _____

D. If funding should be divided, should state formula funds to local school districts be restricted to core instructional costs (school personnel salaries, books and supplies, the cost of operating facilities, and teacher development) Yes or No

1. If so, to what other school district expenditures should the state contribute ?

a. Teacher and employee health benefit costs Yes or No

b. Transportation Yes or No

c. School construction Yes or No

d. Other _____

E. Should there be a minimum level of support from the state to the localities? Yes or No

If yes, should it be:

Less than 25% 25% 50% 75% More Than 75%

F. What is an equitable, flexible, and coordinated standard to determine a local government's capacity to pay for public education?

1 Property wealth Yes or No

2 Income wealth Yes or No

3. Combination of property and income wealth Yes or No

4. Other _____

G. In the case of regional school districts [(RSDs)] should the wealth and enrollment of each participating town be calculated separately? Yes or No

Comments:

II. What factors should be considered in counting students so that the system provides equality of opportunity for education? (support materials recommended include: I g, I h, III)

A. The number of students in the district? Yes or No

1. Based on enrollment?

a. Averaged over a year? Yes or No

- b. counted on a single day? Yes or No
2. Based on attendance?
- a. Averaged over a year? Yes or No
- b. counted on a single day? Yes or No
- B. Poverty level of students? Yes or No
- If yes, how should the poverty level be measured?
1. Average income of residents in city or town? Yes or No
2. Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program Eligibility? Yes or No
3. Other? _____
- C. Special Education student enrollment? Yes or No
- D. The number of students with low scores in math and Language over a two year period? Yes or No
- E. The number of students classified and identified in need of English as a secondary language? Yes or No
- F. Other? _____

Comments:

III. Should there be a hold harmless component in a formula, so that no locality gets less state money in a formula than it received the year before? Yes or No

(Support materials recommended: III b, c)

- A. If yes, should hold harmless be phased out? Yes or No
- B. If so, how long should it be continued? 5 years ? 7 years? 10 years?

Comments:

IV. According to R.I. General Law, [§ 16-77-3.1](#) the purpose of charter schools is “to provide an alternative within the public education system.” How should they be funded?

- A. Full funding by the state? Yes or No
- B. A combination of state and local funding that “follows the student” as proposed in the new RI education formula. Yes or No
- C. Other: _____

Comments: