

Pupil-Centered Funding Plan At-Risk Definition Overview

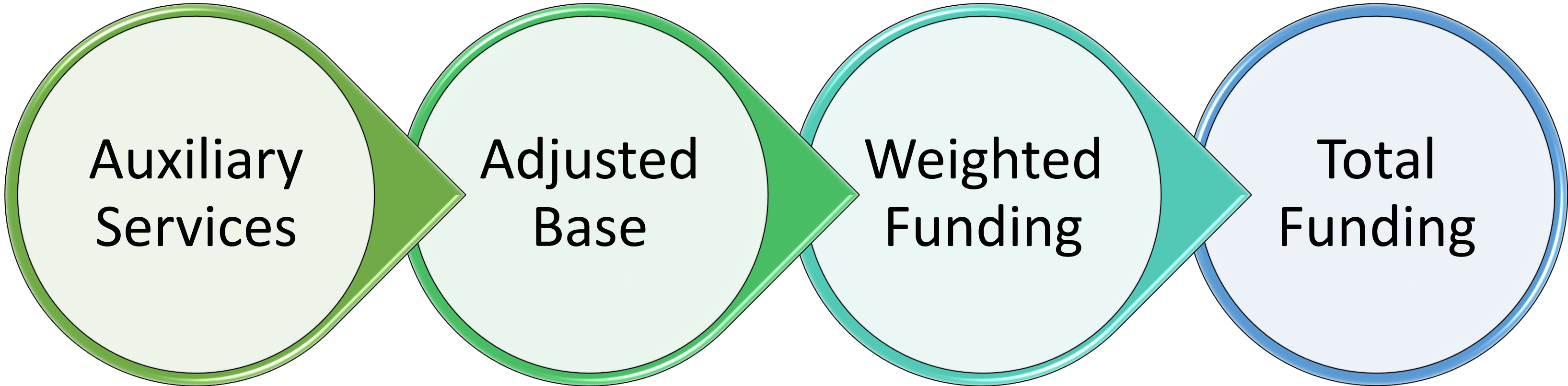
State Board of Education
September 4, 2024

Implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan

2019 Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 543, establishing the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan:

- The plan aims to allocate funding based on individual student needs.
- Base level of funding provided for every student, adjusted for each district's unique local economic conditions.
- Weighted categories of funding that provided targeted interventions for students most in need
- Implementation began in the 2020-2021 school year, with phased rollout through a hold harmless provision.

Overview of the Formula



- Transportation
- Food Services
- Local Special Education

- Nevada Cost of Education Index
- Attendance Area

- English Learner
- At-Risk
- GATE

Overview of Weighted Categories in the Formula

- The Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) uses a weighted funding model that allocates funding above and beyond the adjusted per-pupil base for certain categories of students. These categories include:
- **English Language Learners:** Students whose native language is not English and who may struggle with speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English, potentially hindering their ability to meet state academic standards.
- **At-Risk:** Students facing economic or academic disadvantages that necessitate additional services and assistance to graduate alongside their peers. This includes students from economically disadvantaged families, those at risk of dropping out, and those not meeting minimum academic proficiency standards.
- **Gifted and Talented:** Students under the age of 18 who exhibit exceptional academic skills or aptitudes, requiring specialized instruction or services to thrive in a regular school program.

At-Risk Definition – Last Biennium (2021-2023)

- SB543 amended Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 387.1211 in 2019 to:
 - “At-risk pupil” means a pupil who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches pursuant to 42 U.S. §§ 1751 et seq., or an alternative measure prescribed by the State Board.

Presentation on “At-Risk Students: A conversation around defining options”:

- Nevada Revised Statutes defines an "at-risk pupil" as a pupil who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches or an alternative measure prescribed by the State Board.
- The Free and Reduced-Price Lunch definition has strengths and weaknesses, including issues with tracking pupils without violating confidentiality. It is consistent with the definition used by the majority of states.
- The Opportunity Gap Methodology selects an opportunity gap and uses evidence-based strategies to lessen or remove it. This methodology could result in reduced flexibility of the use of funds at the school level.
- Alternative at-risk factors include being in the bottom quartile as measured by statewide summative assessment, being in foster care, a family living below the poverty line, and repeating a grade. This could result in significant changes in qualifying enrollment.
- Infinite Campus uses a machine-learning algorithm to identify and track student performance and the factors that increase risk to those students. The methodology lacks transparency but provides real-time data synchronization.
- The recommendation is to define "at-risk" as an increased probability of a student not persisting to graduation with their cohort and expand the definition to include attendance, behavior, academic, stability, and GRAD scores.

Presentation on “Possible Definition At-Risk Students Pupil Centered Funding Plan”:

- Reviewed the definition discussed at the prior meeting for at-risk that became effective July 2, 2021.
- Reviewed recommended language refining the definition for the purposes of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan:
 - A pupil is “at-risk” if the pupil has an economic or academic disadvantage such that they require additional services and assistance to enable them to graduate with their cohorts. The term includes, without limitation, pupils who are members of economically disadvantaged families, pupils who are at risk of dropping out of high school, and pupils who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.
 - The term does not include pupils with a disability or who are English Learners
- State Board voted to approve the definition

At-Risk Definition – State Board Adopted (2020-2023)

A pupil is “at-risk” if the pupil has an economic or academic disadvantage such that they require additional services and assistance to enable them to graduate with their cohorts. The term includes, without limitation, pupils who are members of economically disadvantaged families, pupils who are at risk of dropping out of high school, and pupils who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

The term does not include pupils with a disability or who are English Learners

At-Risk Definition - Present

- In 2023 SB 503 amended the same section to:
 - “At-risk pupil” means a pupil who is ~~eligible for free of reduced-price lunches pursuant to 42 U.S. §§ 1751 et seq., or an alternative measure prescribed by the State Board.~~ within the quintile of pupils determined to be most in need of additional services and assistance to graduate based on one or more measures prescribed by the State Board, which may include, without, limitation, consideration of a pupil:
 - a) Is economically disadvantaged;
 - b) Is at risk of dropping out of high school; or
 - c) Fails to meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

Summary

2019

- Pupil-Centered Funding Plan adopted after passage of SB 543
- NRS 387.1211 amended to include an at-risk pupil means a pupil who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et. seq., or an alternative measure prescribed by the State Board.

2020

- State Board adopted alternative definition:
 - A pupil is “at-risk” if the pupil has an economic or academic disadvantage such that they require additional services and assistance to enable them to graduate with their cohorts. The term includes, without limitation, pupils who are members of economically disadvantaged families, pupils who are at risk of dropping out of high school, and pupils who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

2022

- First year of implementation of model using FRL.

2023

- SB 503 codified more specific parameters. July 1, 2023, use of GRAD score for payments.