

# Recommendations: Weights for Categories of Pupils

Commission on School Funding

April 17, 2020

# SB 543 Requirements: Weighted Funding

- Established separately for each category of pupils
- Expressed as a multiplier applied to statewide base per pupil funding amount
- Pupils belonging to more than one category, receive weighted funding for only the category with the highest weight
- Multiplier for a fiscal year  $\geq$  prior fiscal year
  - Unless State Education Fund increases/decreases

# Summary of Presentations

- December 2019: APA presentation
  - Reviewed recommendations from 2006, 2015 and 2018
- January 2020:
  - NDE presentations on state and federal funds for identified student groups
  - CSF recommendation
    - For now, use APA recommended weights
- February 2020: PCFP Blueprint demonstrated current weights
  - based on NDE and school district budgets for FY 2020
  - Updated by NDE as of April 2020

# Weights: Gifted and Talented

## Options presented to CSF

- APA
  - Scaled Weights, Relative, Full Adequacy
  - Multiplier = 0.05 (Relative)
- NDE (Nevada Plan)
  - Avail funds ÷ eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.14
- February Blueprint (NDE and SD)
  - Budgeted funds (NDE + SD) ÷ eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.36

## Recommendation

- Option 1
  - Recommend multiplier that maintains level funding (FY 20) based on statewide base per pupil funding amount
    - Either NDE or NDE + SD
- Option 2
  - Reduce the multiplier to APA recommendation

# Weights: Special Education

## Options presented to CSF

- APA
  - Scaled Weights, Relative, Full Adequacy
  - Multiplier = 1.10 (Relative)
- NDE (Nevada Plan)
  - Avail funds ÷ eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.57
- February Blueprint (NDE and SD)
  - Budgeted funds (NDE + SD) ÷ eligible students
  - Multiplier = 1.45

# Concerns: Special Education Weights

- Commission Concerns:
  - PCFP limits school districts ability to reallocate funding based on cost of service
  - PCFP requires funding to follow pupil to his/her school, which could impact shared services
  - Using FY 20 budgets to establish a single weight skews the weight; not all school districts have same maintenance of effort (MOE)
  - Single weight, based on FY 20 budgets, could lead to challenges with MOE at the State and local levels

# Separate Account: Special Education

## Establish an account for Special Education

- In accordance with SB 543, Section 2.5
- Includes federal funds and State and local funds for MOE

## Advantages

- Removes Special Education from PCFP
- Allows NDE and each school district/charter school to track MOE
- Maintains current funding allocation and service provision
  - Funding does not have to be distributed to the school where the student is enrolled

# Options: Special Education

## Options presented to CSF

- APA
  - Multiplier = 1.10
- NDE (Nevada Plan)
  - Multiplier = 0.57
- February Blueprint (NDE and SD)
  - Multiplier = 1.45
- Separate Account
  - Transfer federal, state, and local funds

## Recommendation

- Utilize a separate account
  - Maintains existing business practices
    - Provision of services
      - To students
      - By districts
    - Funding methodology
    - Assures MOE is met
  - May relieve new financial tracking requirements



# Weights: At-Risk

## Options presented to CSF

- APA
  - Scaled Weights, Relative, Full Adequacy
  - Multiplier = 0.30 (Relative)
- NDE (Nevada Plan)
  - Victory funds  $\div$  eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.47
- February Blueprint (NDE and SD)
  - Budgeted funds (NDE + SD)  $\div$  eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.64

## Recommendation

- Recommend the current NDE multiplier of 0.47
- NDE will continue to explore other definitions for At-Risk
  - Definitions used by other states
  - Risk Indicator available through Infinite Campus

# Weights: English Learners

## Options presented to CSF

- APA
  - Scaled Weights, Relative, Full Adequacy
  - Multiplier = 0.50 (Relative)
- NDE (Nevada Plan)
  - Zoom funds  $\div$  eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.21
- February Blueprint (NDE and SD)
  - Budgeted funds (NDE + SD)  $\div$  eligible students
  - Multiplier = 0.27

## Recommendation

- Recommend an increased multiplier between 0.27 or 0.50

# Questions?