



**Nevada State Public
Charter School
Authority**

Presentation to Commission
on School Funding regarding
public charter schools

January 9, 2020

Background and Context

What are public charter schools?

- Tuition-free, public schools
- Students enrolled through a lottery (school may not impose any admission criteria*)
- Required to take all state assessments (SBAC, ACT, etc.)
- Governed by volunteer board of directors
- May not operate for profit
- Subject to a performance contract with a charter school sponsor

**Pursuant to NRS 388A.274, a charter school may, with approval from the SPCSA and State Board of Education be rated under the Alternative Performance Framework schools, so long as they serve primarily students meeting at least one of the following criteria: (1) Have been expelled or suspended from a public school, including, without limitation, a charter school; (2) Have been deemed to be a habitual disciplinary problem pursuant to NRS 392.4655; (3) Are academically disadvantaged; (4) Have been adjudicated delinquent; (5) Have been adjudicated to be in need of supervision for a reason set forth in NRS 62B.320; or (6) Have an individualized education program. Alternative Performance Framework schools may restrict enrolment to students in the categories outlined above.*

What is the SPCSA?

Created in 2011, the purpose of the State Public Charter School Authority is to:

- (a) Authorize charter schools of high-quality throughout this State with the goal of expanding the opportunities for pupils in this State, including, without limitation, pupils who are at risk.
- (b) Provide oversight to the charter schools that it sponsors to ensure that those charter schools maintain high educational and operational standards, preserve autonomy and safeguard the interests of pupils and the community.
- (c) Serve as a model of the best practices in sponsoring charter schools and foster a climate in this State in which all high-quality charter schools, regardless of sponsor, can flourish.

The SPCSA 2019-2024 Strategic Plan

Vision:

Equitable access to diverse, innovative, high quality public schools for every Nevada student.

Strategic Goals:

1. Provide families with access to high quality schools
2. Ensure that every SPCSA student succeeds - including those from historically underserved student groups
3. Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools

Assembly Bill 462

Assembly Bill 462 from the 2019 Legislative Session required the SPCSA to conduct a statewide Needs Assessment and develop a Growth Management Plan to enable more strategic authorizing of schools. Ultimately, our aim is to ensure that public charter schools are responsive to community and statewide needs and enable equitable access to high quality schools for all students.

SPCSA-Sponsored Schools



60 Schools

Sponsored by the SPCSA

Schools located in 5 counties

- (Churchill, Clark, Elko, Washoe, White Pine)
- 85% of schools in Clark County



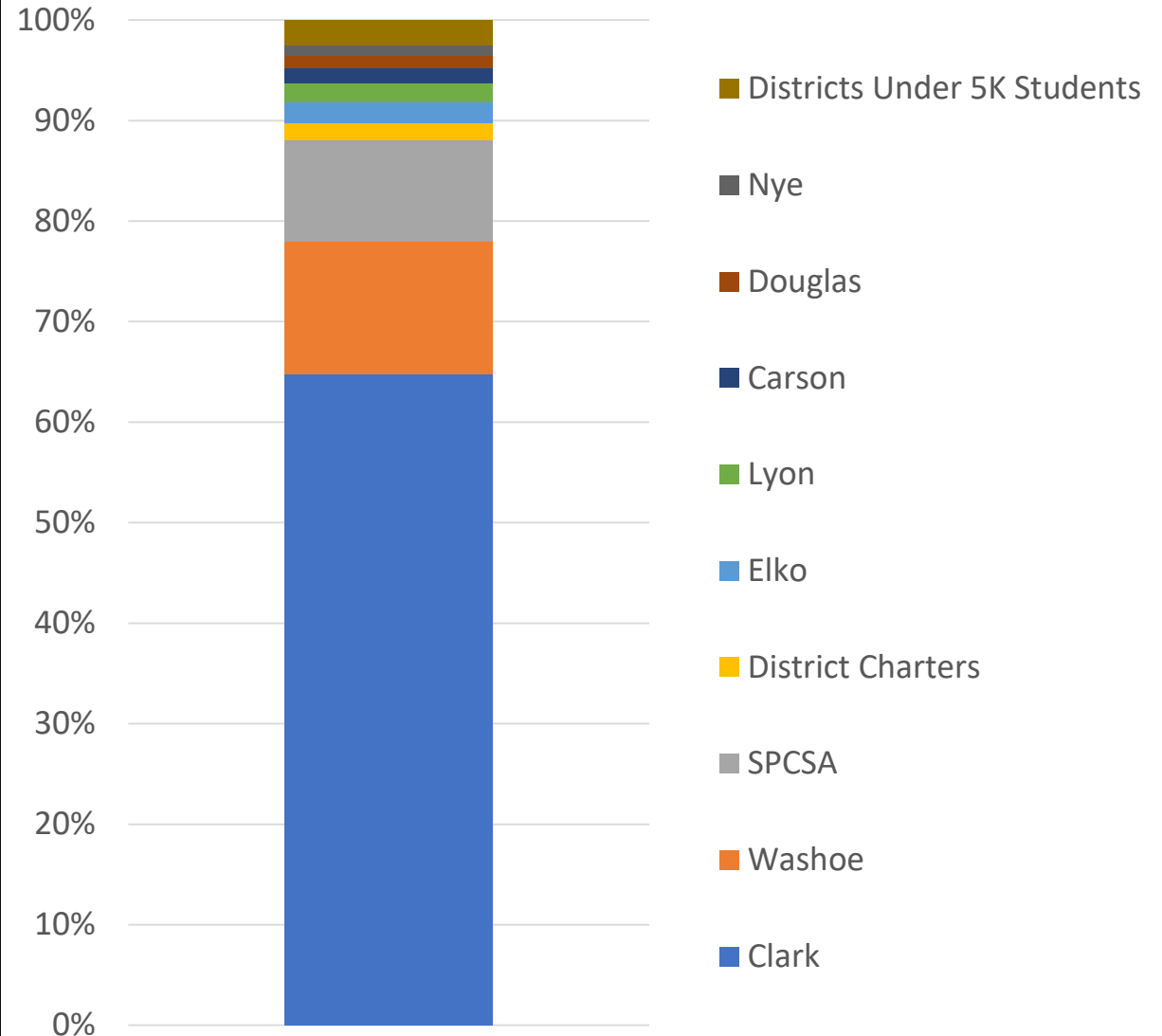
Approximately 49,000 Students

Attending schools sponsored by the SPCSA

In addition, there are approximately 8,000 students enrolled in district-sponsored charter schools:

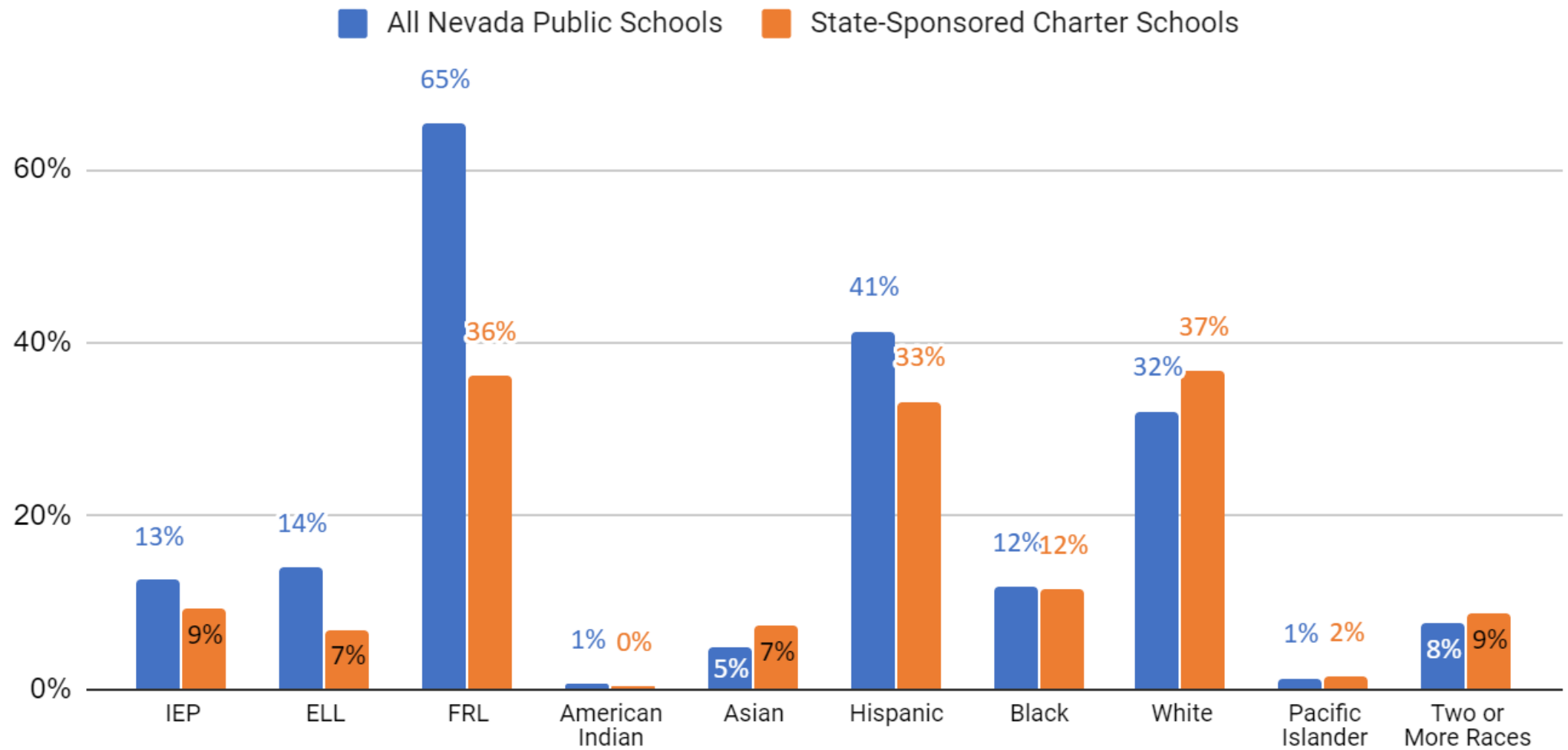
- 1 in Carson City
- 6 in Clark County
- 7 in Washoe County

Nevada Student Enrollment (Oct. 1, 2019)



SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Demographics

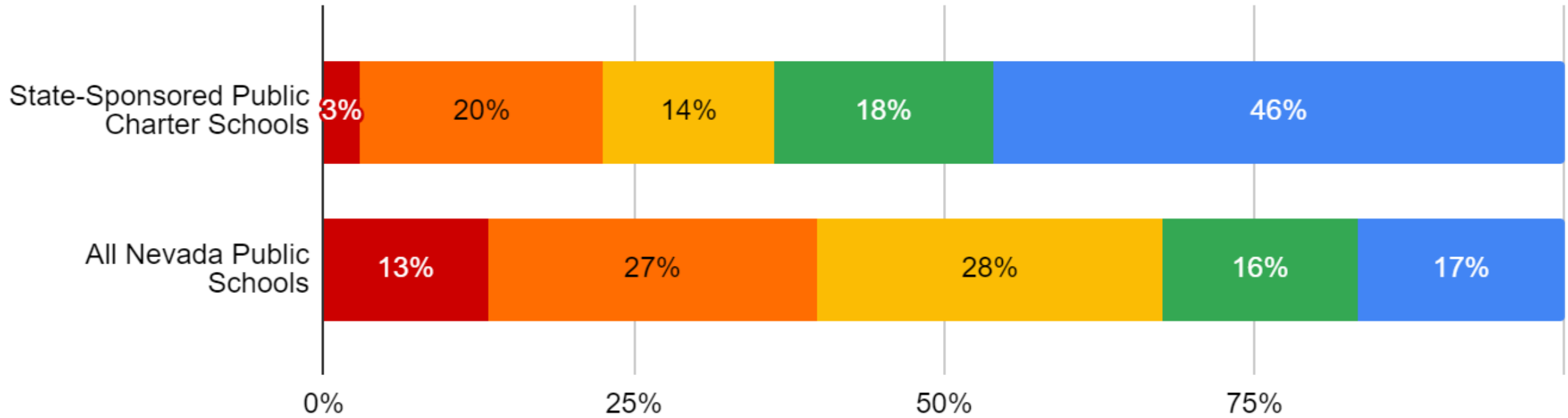
2019-20 Demographic Comparison



SPCSA-Sponsored Schools Performance

2018-19 Star Rating Comparison

■ 1-Star
 ■ 2-Star
 ■ 3-Star
 ■ 4-Star
 ■ 5-Star



Definitions

1-Star	2-Star	3-Star	4-Star	5-Star
Has not met standards	Partially met standards	Adequate	Commendable	Superior

For complete definitions, see Appendix C of the [NSPF Procedures Manual](#).

How are public charter schools currently funded?

The **apportionment to a charter school** that is sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority or by a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education, computed on a yearly basis, **is equal to the sum of the basic support per pupil in the county in which the pupil resides plus the amount of local funds available per pupil pursuant to [NRS 387.163](#) and all other funds available for public schools in the county in which the pupil resides, minus the sponsorship fee prescribed by [NRS 388A.414](#) and minus all funds attributable to pupils who are enrolled in the charter school but are concurrently enrolled part-time in a program of distance education provided by a school district or another charter school.**

How are virtual public charter schools currently funded?

The **apportionment to a charter school, for pupils who are enrolled full-time in a program of distance education and reside in a county school district in which 5,000 or fewer pupils are enrolled, computed on a yearly basis, is equal to the estimated weighted average per pupil basic support guarantee** calculated as described in NRS 387.122 and established by law for all the school districts and charter schools within this State **plus the amount of local funds available per pupil pursuant to NRS 387.163 and all other funds available for public schools in the county in which the pupil resides, minus the sponsorship fee** prescribed by NRS 388A.414 and minus all the funds attributable to pupils who are enrolled in the charter school but are concurrently enrolled part time in a program of distance education provided by a school district or another charter school.

What is the budgeting process for public charter schools?

- Budgets must
 - Include detailed estimates of revenues, balances in other funds and other sources of financing
 - Include detailed estimates of expenditures and other uses of money
 - Be on a form prescribed by the Department of Taxation for use by local governments
- Tentative Budgets due April 15
- Final Budgets due June 8

How public charter schools spend their funds?

- Salaries and Benefits
- Facilities
- Other Operating Expenses including:
 - Utilities
 - Supplies
 - Technology and IT services
 - Contracted Services
 - Food Service
 - Transportation (school bussing only provided by two schools as of SY18-19)

Financial Reporting Requirements for Public Charter Schools

Charter schools submit various reports throughout the year including:

- Quarterly Average Daily Enrollment reports
- School Calendar for approval by NDE
- 387.303 Annual Report of Budget
- Annual Financial Audit
- Quarterly Financial Statements (sponsor required)
- Capital Improvement Plan
- NCES/F33 - Annual Survey of School System Finances
- Federal Grant Monitoring Documentation

Pupil-Centered Funding Plan

School-type Comparison Matrix

	Traditional Public Schools	Traditional Charter Schools	Virtual Charter Schools
Base Funding (Section 4.1)	Calculated value based, adjusted annual for inflation and enrollment growth	Calculated value based, adjusted annual for inflation and enrollment growth	Calculated value based, adjusted annual for inflation and enrollment growth
Weighted Funding (Section 4.1(e))	Allocation based on weighted student enrollment, including initial weight and incremental weight	Allocation based on weighted student enrollment, including initial weight and incremental weight	Allocation based on weighted student enrollment, including initial weight and incremental weight
Equity Adjustment – Cost of Living/Cost of Labor (Section 5)	Adjustment based on county-level cost-of-living/cost-of-labor factor	Adjustment based on county-level cost-of-living/cost-of-labor factor	No adjustment
Equity Adjustment – Necessarily Small Schools (Section 6)	Adjustment based on necessarily small school formula	No adjustment	No adjustment

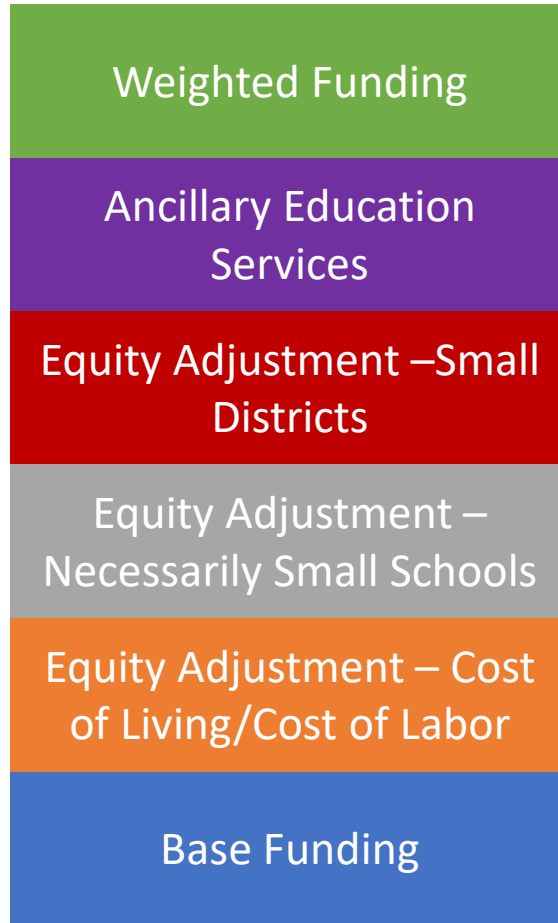
School-type Comparison Matrix (cont.)

	Traditional Public Schools	Traditional Charter Schools	Virtual Charter Schools
Equity Adjustment – Small Districts (Section 7)	Adjustment based on necessarily small school formula	No adjustment	No adjustment
Ancillary Education Services (Section 4(2)(b))	Allocation made to each school district to cover the cost of transportation, food service, and similar services	No allocation	No allocation

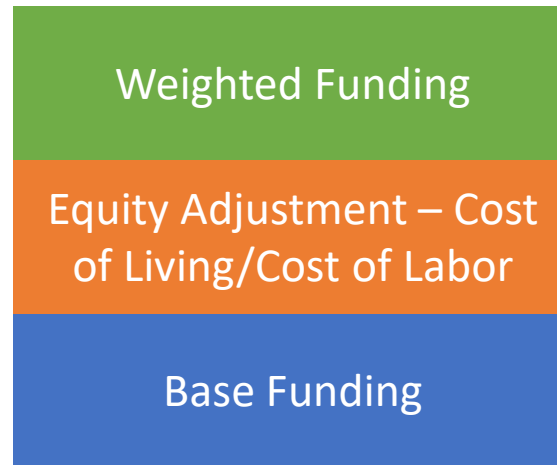
In addition, the hold harmless provision in section 15 of Senate Bill 543 explicitly names school districts but does not extend the hold harmless provision to charter schools.

Pupil-Centered Funding Plan

How will the new formula impact equitable access and equitable experiences for students?



Student at a Traditional District School



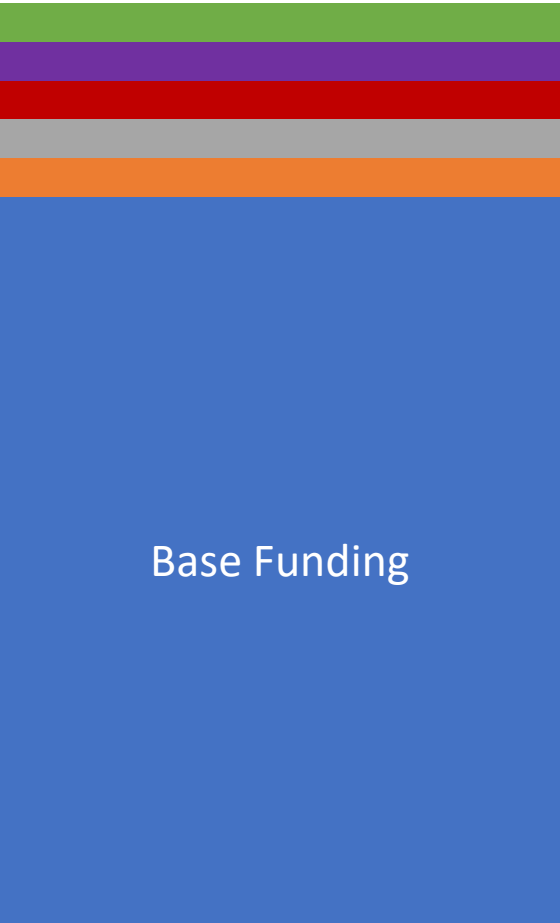
Student at a Public Charter School



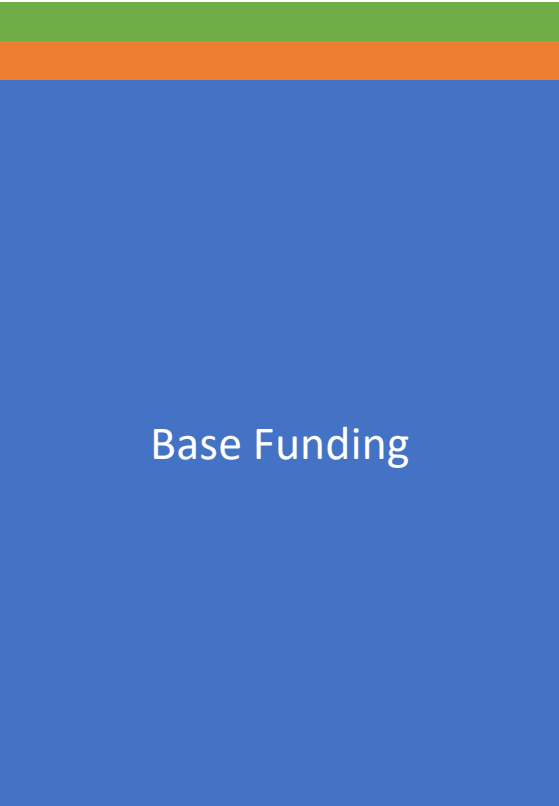
Student at a Virtual Public Charter School

Scenario 1

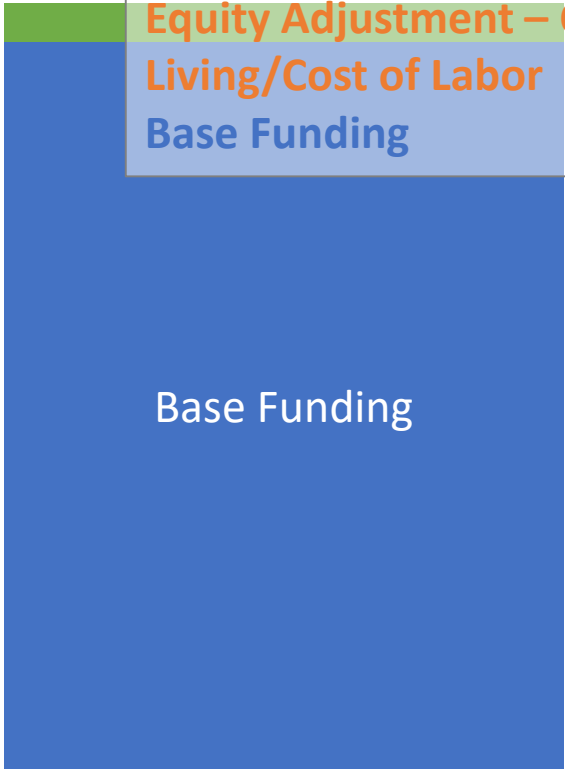
Base funding makes up majority of total funds



Student at a Traditional District School



Student at a Public Charter School



Student at a Virtual Public Charter School

Key

- Weighted Funding
- Ancillary Education Services
- Equity Adjustment – Small District
- Equity Adjustment – Necessarily Small Schools
- Equity Adjustment – Cost of Living/Cost of Labor
- Base Funding

Scenario 2

At Risk Student at large school in Clark or Washoe County



Student at a Traditional District School



Student at a Public Charter School

Key

Weighted Funding

Ancillary Education Services

Equity Adjustment – Small District

Equity Adjustment – Necessarily Small Schools

Equity Adjustment – Cost of Living/Cost of Labor

Base Funding

Scenario 3

At Risk Student zoned to a small school in a small district



Student at a District School



Student at a Charter School

Key

Weighted Funding

Ancillary Education Services

Equity Adjustment – Small District

Equity Adjustment – Necessarily Small Schools

Equity Adjustment – Cost of Living/Cost of Labor

Base Funding