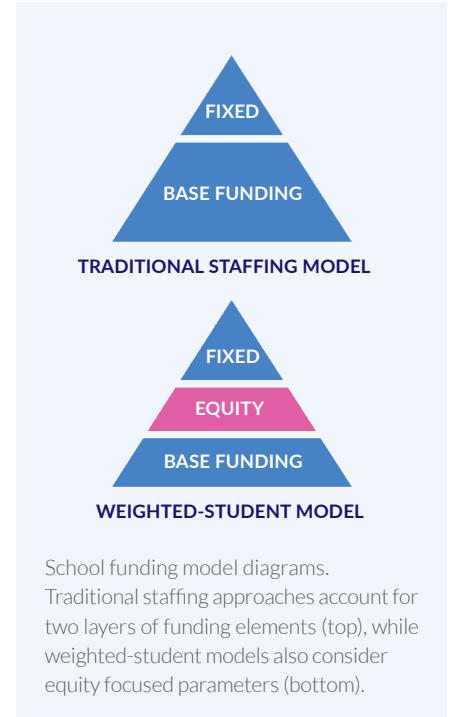




School Funding Models and Resource Equity

K-12 district budget offices make decisions that affect school expenditures. Traditionally, districts allocate money to schools using a teacher-driven “staffing” approach. Districts determine the staffing needs of their schools, set rules that link staffing to enrollment, and distribute funds accordingly.

Funding decisions can also be tied to the unique needs of each school’s student enrollment — the “weighted-student” model. For this student-driven approach, districts assign weights to different student characteristics. In doing so, funding is distributed to schools in a more strategic, equitable way. When schools receive funding based on enrolled student characteristics, resources can be made available at the school-level to support student need and drive student outcomes.



Elements of a student-driven funding approach

FIXED ELEMENTS

These largely fundamental, school-based costs are considered “locked” components. These are the fixed costs of both traditional staffing and weighted funding models and can include:

- Plant ops
- Utilities
- Principals
- Transportation
- Specialty Programs
- Title programs and services

BASE FUNDING ELEMENTS

Base elements reflect the minimum resources that schools need to operate and, along with fixed components, comprise the entirety of a traditional staffing funding model. This can include:

EQUITY FOCUSED ELEMENTS

Resource equity is closely tied to student characteristics. When these factors are appropriately weighted in funding models, districts allocate funding to schools based on the unique needs of their student populations. This can include:

- English language learners
- Students with disabilities
- Low/high performing students
- Students from circumstances of poverty
- At-risk or discipline students
- Retained students

- Supplies and materials
- Substitute teachers
- Activity buses
- Administrative staff
- Guidance counselors, social workers
- Support staff