

# SMART Pathways for Student Success

SMART Pathways for Student Success is a school district financial management and strategy framework. The five distinct Pathways highlight challenges many budget owners, department administrators, cabinet members, and principals face while managing their education finance resources. The framework is designed to move districts to holistic and sustainable financial management practices in 3-5 years, depending on their baseline diagnostic.

**S**

## Site Level Autonomy

Budget owners have control over the dollars spent at their location and are provided the corresponding professional development needed to ensure their success.

**M**

## Management

The district has the right processes, people, and tools in place to ensure that budget owners are held accountable and prepared for strategic spending.

**A**

## Alignment of Spending to Goals

The district has clearly articulated outcomes-based goals that are tied to dollars, with the appropriate infrastructure in place to monitor and update resource allocation decisions regularly.

**R**

## Resource Equity

Dollars are allocated to schools based on student needs. The allocation methods are transparent and updated annually to account for changing student populations.

**T**

## Transparency

Every district stakeholder has access to district's allocation method, site-based budgets, and actual expenditures. This information is easily accessible and understandable for the school and district community.