

STUDENT BASED ALLOCATION: 101

Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, IPS will be using Student-Based Allocation as our funding model. Student based allocation funding formulas, also known as weighted student funding, distribute district funds equitably across schools based on the educational needs of each student type.

SBA is a system of distributing funding to schools on the basis of student needs. Each individual student receives funding based upon their weighted characteristics, and each school receives funding based upon the students within their building.

Traditional Funding Formulas



Keep most funds – both school and district level – under district control



Budget funds for special programs, not for student types



Limit principals' budgetary authority



Distribute staff to schools based on enrollment counts

Inherent Flaws:

- Uneven funding distribution within districts



- Similar schools may receive different funding
- Lack of autonomy for school administrators and leaders

A Student Based Allocation Model



Dollars are distributed to schools based on student needs



Objective, deliberate, measurable characteristics of each student are weighted in dollar terms; 2017 weights will be:

- K-2
- Grades 7 & 9
- Poverty

Primary Benefits of SBA



Equity

Funds are distributed based on student need

Transparency

Clear and easily understood rules for where, how and why dollars flow

Flexibility

Schools have some flexibility to individualize resources to match their staff and students' strengths and needs