

Student-Centered, Competency-Based

Funding Reform

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Foundation for Excellence in Education

501(c)(3) organization whose vision is to build an education system that maximizes every student's potential for learning and prepares all students for success in the 21st century.

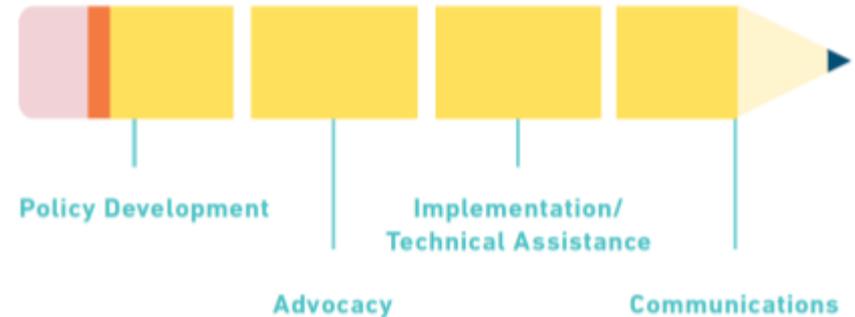
Our Guiding Principles

All children can learn.

All children should learn at least a year's worth of knowledge in a year's time.

All children will achieve when education is organized around the singular goal of student success.

What We Do



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The Benefits of Student-Centered Funding

Student-centered funding is designed for education in the 21st century.

- 1 States face significant financial limits even as they seek to raise academic standards.
- 2 Students can move from school to school during the school year and over the course of their K-12 career.
- 3 Students can receive instruction from more than one provider at the same time.
- 4 Student need varying amounts of time to achieve college and career readiness.



Implementing Student-Centered Funding

States have collapsed a multitude of funding programs into a student-centered funding formula.

- 1 A state establishes a student-centered education funding formula, and almost all state and local education funding flows through this formula.
- 2 A state establishes a base funding amount per student needed to educate a student with no special needs or disadvantages.
- 3 A state establishes weights for certain types of students such that all districts are able and willing to enroll students with special services and disadvantages. These weights are used to calculate a weighted student enrollment for each district.



Implementing Student-Centered Funding

- 4 A state establishes a state and local share of the base funding amount per student that reflects local wealth. For each jurisdiction, a state provides the state share times the weighted student enrollment. A state requires each local jurisdiction to raise revenue necessary to provide its local share times the weighted student enrollment.
- 5 A state requires transparency by districts on expenditures in each school, reflecting actual salaries.
- 6 The weighted student enrollment reflects the current enrollment in each district, with at least several adjustments during the school year.
- 7 A state also provides funding based on credits earned, course modules completed and/or competencies achieved.



Counting Students

Enrollment-based counting provides greater flexibility, but it only addresses some of the obstacles to competency-based education.

- 1 Still need to determine whether a student is fully enrolled, which can require a detailed examination of each student’s schedule.
- 2 Still need to determine whether “instruction” includes online learning and apprenticeships, and if so, how to count it.
- 3 Still need to decide how to divide up funding between multiple providers, without limiting student access or penalizing acceleration.
- 4 Still need to incentive instructional quality and student mastery, including how to support the extra time some students need.



Lessons from the states.

States are flexing their existing funding systems, while using online courses to explore competency-based funding.

- 1 **Colorado** proactively worked to recognize online and blended learning as an hour of instruction. **Florida** funds apprenticeship-type courses as long as they are approved through the state's course directory.
- 2 **Utah** bases funding on hours, periods or credits enrolled relative to a full time student.
- 3 **New Hampshire** does not reduce funding to districts if students take online courses. **Utah** provides extra funding if a student intends to graduate early.
- 4 **New Hampshire** pays its online course provider based on course modules completed. **Florida** pays for courses completed. **Utah** pays 50% based on timely course completion.



Thank You!

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