



Fair Student Funding Working Group In Person Convening

October 4th, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- Kick Off from Co-Chairs and Review Objectives
- Introductions
- What do Students and Schools Need?
- What Solutions Can We Provide?
- What Are We Communicating as a Working Group?

Objectives for Our Convening

- Create space to discuss individual members' priorities about what schools need to frame our report vision (***What Do Students and Schools Need?***)
- Review and refine existing proposals to identify preliminary recommendations and identify other potential proposals (***What Solutions Can We Provide?***)
- Take necessary steps to get report drafted, including (1) confirm (first) writers, (2) agree on process to select recommendations, and (3) discuss format of report (***What is our plan for recommendations as a WG?***)

Norms

- Transparency, visibility, and discussion will be prioritized
- Assume positive intent and lead with intentionality—if a disagreement does arise, it will be proactively addressed
- Step up and step back – making space for all to share

Introductions

- We appreciate everyone joining us in person today and want to take the time to get to know each other.
- We are going to do a brief introductory activity now.

Opening Reflection:

- Please take two minutes and silently reflect on the following question:
 - What is your “why” for participating in this group?
- Then, in your table group, share your responses and get to know each other a bit better.

I. What do Students and Schools Need?



Vision

What do we want to be true for students + schools?

Problem

What is the problem getting in the way that we want/can to address through changes to FSF?

**Solution/
Recom-
mendations**

What are recommendations to address that problem through FSF?

Vision: Identifying What Students and Schools Need

Noting that many of us have shared our perspectives on what schools need through our conversations, we want to aggregate the group's thoughts in one place, both to inform your recommendations, and to serve as content for the introduction of the report to ground those recommendations

- 1. On a Post It, Write (3 min.):** What do you think students and schools need? What must the Chancellor and the public at large understand about the needs of students and schools?
- 2. In your Table Group (5 min.):** Share out your responses with your group. Then, as a group, organize the individual post-its into categories on the chart to consolidate some of the individual suggestions into broader categories such as "Support for Special Populations" or "Additional Resources for Small Schools"
- 3. Whole Group Activity (20 min.):** Table Groups share out and work to develop an overarching list of What Students and Schools Need to anchor our report.

II: What Solutions Can We Provide to the Problems We Have Identified?



Supporting Special Populations (1 of 2)

Problem: Schools do not have sufficient funding to support students living in shelter and students in temporary housing

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** Two options of an additional weight for students in temporary housing (meeting #5)

Problem: Schools, especially small schools, do not have sufficient funding to open special education classes and address breakage issues.

- **Recommendation considered:** Additional weight for special education students in small schools (meeting #6)

Problem: SWDs have different needs, which require different supports and amounts of funding. The formula should take this into account and differentiate based on their needs.

- Current weights look at percent of time receiving special education services and inclusiveness of those services (at <20%, 20-60%, and 60%+ in more and less inclusive settings).
- **Recommendation considered:** None to date

Supporting Special Populations (2 of 2)

Problem: Schools do not have sufficient funding to meet the needs of multilingual learners.

- Schools receive weights for ELLs in bilingual and ENL settings, and for needs of former ELLs deemed proficient in English in recent years.
- **Recommendation considered:** None to date

Problem: Schools serving high concentrations of students with additional needs require additional funds and supports to serve all students well.

- **Recommendation considered:** Additional weight for concentrations of students in poverty, students in temporary housing, etc. (meeting #6)

Problem: FSF does not provide a weight for all students in poverty.

- **Recommendation considered:** Add additional weight for students in poverty (meeting #6).
- **Recommendation considered:** Replace academic need weight with weight for students in poverty (meeting #5)

Supporting Small Schools

Problem: Base allocation of \$225k/school is inadequate to allow small schools to staff appropriately.

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** Two options of a larger base weight for all schools (meeting #5).

Problem: Schools, especially small schools, do not have sufficient funding to open special education classes and address breakage issues.

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** Additional weight for special education students in small schools (meeting #6).

Additional areas

Problem: Numerous SAMs allocate funds to schools that in some cases support some of the same goals as FSF.

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** None to date.

Problem: Portfolio weights drive additional funds to a narrow set of schools, sometimes with unclear criteria.

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** None to date.

Problem: Schools are currently charged in their budget for the actual costs of teachers.

- **Recommendation(s) considered:** Charge all schools the same amount for a teacher regardless of actual teacher salaries (meeting #6).

Activity:

- We will rotate around four table groups – Supporting Special Populations, Supporting Small Schools, Supporting Students in Poverty and Additional Areas.
- One note-taker will stay at each table through the duration of the activity and capture notes on a Google Doc.
- Groups of Participants rotate around and spend 10 minutes at each table and engage in discussion around the following, while notetaker gathers responses.
 - For the problems we have identified, are these the right solutions? Are there additional solutions that we need to develop to address named the problem?
 - Are there other problems we missed?
- Notetakers will share a summary of their conversations at the end with the group.

III: What is our Plan for Recommendations as a Working Group?



A. Determining Process for Selecting Final Recommendations

For Discussion: How are we determining the final recommendations?

Some Considerations:

- Voting Process
- Consensus Process where all agree
- Making space to include different perspectives
- Ranking recommendations by priority
- How do we engage WG members who are not present in this conversation?

B. Finalize Volunteers and Review Potential Format for Report

Report Writing:

- Identify Volunteers and Confirm Timeline for the Report and Writing Commitment

Possible format:

- Vision: What do students and schools need and deserve?
- Problems/Challenges with the current formula
- Potential recommendations to change FSF
- Additional policy considerations or recommendations
- Thank you to Kaliris, Ted, Michael A and Marina for volunteering to write!

Process for Report Writing

- Today:
 - Agree on process of aligning on recommendations
 - Agree on first draft report writers (thank you!)
 - Review potential format of report
- Between October 4th and 13th, report writers draft the preliminary report (THANK YOU!)
- In Meeting #7 on October 13th, Working Group engages in first round of feedback
- Between October 13th and October 27th, Small Group revises report
- In Meeting #8 on October 27th, Working Group engages in final round of feedback and “**approves**” the report

List of Meeting Dates for the Working Group

- FSF Convening: Tuesday, October 4th, 12:30pm to 4pm
- Meeting #7: Thursday, October 13th, 4pm to 5:30pm
 - Preliminary Draft Report will be developed from the Writers for Group Review
- Meeting #8: Thursday, October 27th, 4pm to 5:30pm
 - Finalize the report, identify our collective commitment to the report itself, register any rebuttals

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Email us at FairStudentFunding@schools.nyc.gov
- Visit: www.nyc.gov/schools
- All Meeting Minutes and Meeting Resources are Posted at:
 - <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/financial/financial-data-and-reports>

Appreciations

- Sincerest thank you to all our Working Group Members.
- We appreciate your commitment to this work and your active engagement and continuous participation!

Thank you!