

Foundation Aid Study
Information for Consideration - Rockefeller Institute
Public Hearing - Jul 30, 2024
By Dr. Maria L. Riann

Any formula must begin with a standard amount per per for all districts.

We have up-to-date data for each group, and subgroup, of students we educate, including students in private and parochial schools within our districts. It needs to be understood that there are vast differences within some subgroups that impact programs significantly...such as ELL students that are educated vs students with interrupted or no education.

Average daily attendance cannot impact a district's funding negatively. The financial impact must be understood as additional services are required to enhance attendance and provide remedial services.

If the formula is calculated on data that is currently gathered and provided yearly...and is currently being reported to the State Education department. Using this data, accurate funding could be provided on a 2 or 3 year average.

Save-Harmless districts had their Foundation aid frozen for 24-25. And I have a detailed understanding of need as a result. Their district profiles have changed considerably since first being identified as a "Save-Harmless" district. But you must also keep in mind that districts such as Glen Cove, Westbury, Ossining, Riverhead, Port Chester and many others [of which we have a list] did not receive full funding of Foundation aid for more than 10 years. [Glen Cove was at 44%, just to provide an example] Although we know there is no manner in which these districts can be repaid, the formula could provide for an equity factor included over a certain period of time to properly provide for the children of those districts.

This is not a new problem. Eight states have already put in place a new funding formula. We could learn from them what worked, and what didn't. But New York must step up, especially when we serve one of the largest populations of children in the country.