

Committee Chairs and Members: *Overview*

November 2021





BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE
ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION,
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE
EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC
AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR
THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE
THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND
REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Content

- Overview of School Funding
- Public Engagement Opportunities
- Roles and Responsibilities of Subcommittee Chairs and Members
- Subcommittee Structure and Materials
- Timelines and Deliverables

Statement

TDOE is excited to work with you on this opportunity to discuss the **State's formula for funding public education**. Before we begin, the Department would like to remind you of the following:

- **Conversations on this topic are not intended to reflect on the current BEP funding formula.** The current BEP funding formula will remain in place until a new funding formula is recommended to and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly.
- **The public is encouraged to submit comments in writing** to ensure that all communications are thoroughly documented and can be reviewed and considered in the future.
- **Public comment is encouraged to focus on developing a new funding formula**, rather than revising the current funding formula. Consider what should be funded in a new funding formula and at what level.
- **Subcommittees will be responsible for reviewing public comment and making recommendations** for what should be included in a new funding formula.
- While all committees, subcommittees, and members of the public should feel free to communicate openly, **documents and records may be subject to public inspection** pursuant to the Tennessee Public Records Act and **may be publicly posted or otherwise made available**.
- **All recommendations that are submitted by committees and subcommittees will be reviewed and considered**, but not all recommendations will ultimately be included in the proposed new funding formula.

Overview of School Funding



What is school funding?

What is public school funding?

Public school funding is the money a school district receives, through federal, state, and/or local dollars, to provide an education to students. This includes funds for academic programming, district and school operations, and other resources.

Why is school funding important?

A state's school funding model signals both what we believe is important in public education and the outcomes we expect education to achieve for students. The method by which districts are allocated funding and the amount they receive guides district decisions on how to best serve their students, including determining the right combination of programs, resources, and services to accelerate student achievement and success. Every student has a unique set of needs, and school funding is a major lever in ensuring all students receive the necessary supports for a high-quality education.



Hallmarks of a Good Formula

| Indicators | Can you answer this question? |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Easy-to-Understand and Transparent | Do I know how my child's (or a student's) education is funded and what it includes? Can I explain it? Is the information easy to find? |
| Works for <u>All</u> Students | Can I easily and clearly name how students with greater or unique needs are supported in the formula? |
| Sustainable and Fiscally Responsible | Is this a formula that can be maintained by the state in a way that provides stability and consistency for students? Does the formula adequately and reasonably meet the needs of the students our education system serves? |
| Outcomes-focused | Are there incentives that support access and opportunity for all students – but particularly those with the greatest needs – to successfully participate in post-secondary programming? |
| Flexible | Can changes and additions to education funding occur <u>within</u> the formula? Do districts have the ability and flexibility to allocate resources in ways that maximize student achievement and best serve local needs? |

What are common types of state funding?

State funding models for public education take a variety of forms, but there are generally **three types of models** that states use to develop a funding structure for public education.



STUDENT-BASED

Districts receive a base amount of funding per student, with supplementary funding added to provide additional supports to students with higher need or unique contexts, typically using (a) weights or multipliers and/or (b) additional flat rates for more standardized costs.



RESOURCE-BASED

Districts receive a minimum base amount for resources, such as money for staffing, services, and programs. Resource-based models often utilize a ratio based on staffing to students.



CATEGORICAL

Districts receive dollars that are tied to specific programs and services and use of those funds is limited to those areas. This is most typically seen in federal funding.

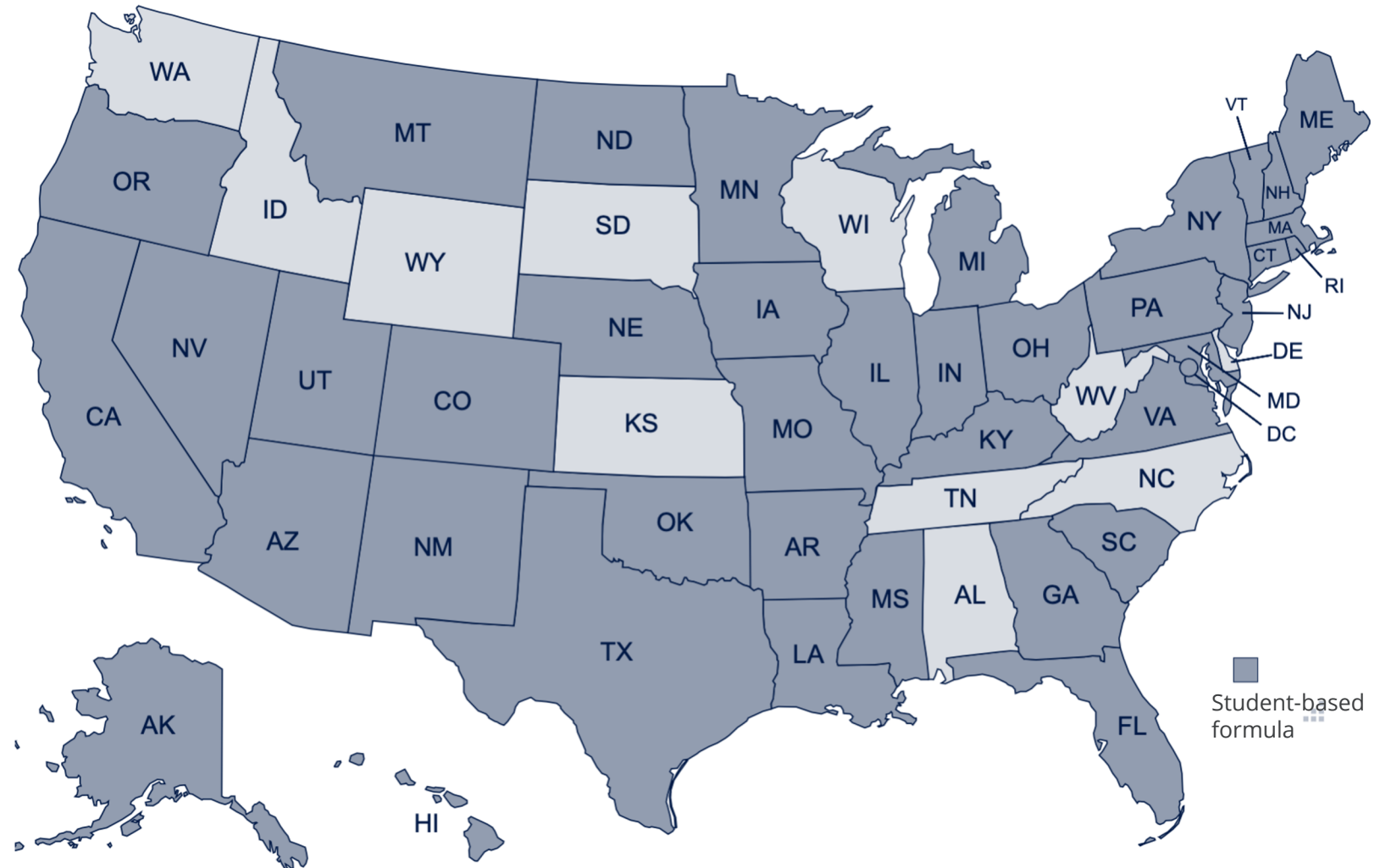
Moving to a Student-Based Formula

Tennessee

is considering the development of a student-based formula

39 states

have already moved to a student-based or hybrid student-based formula



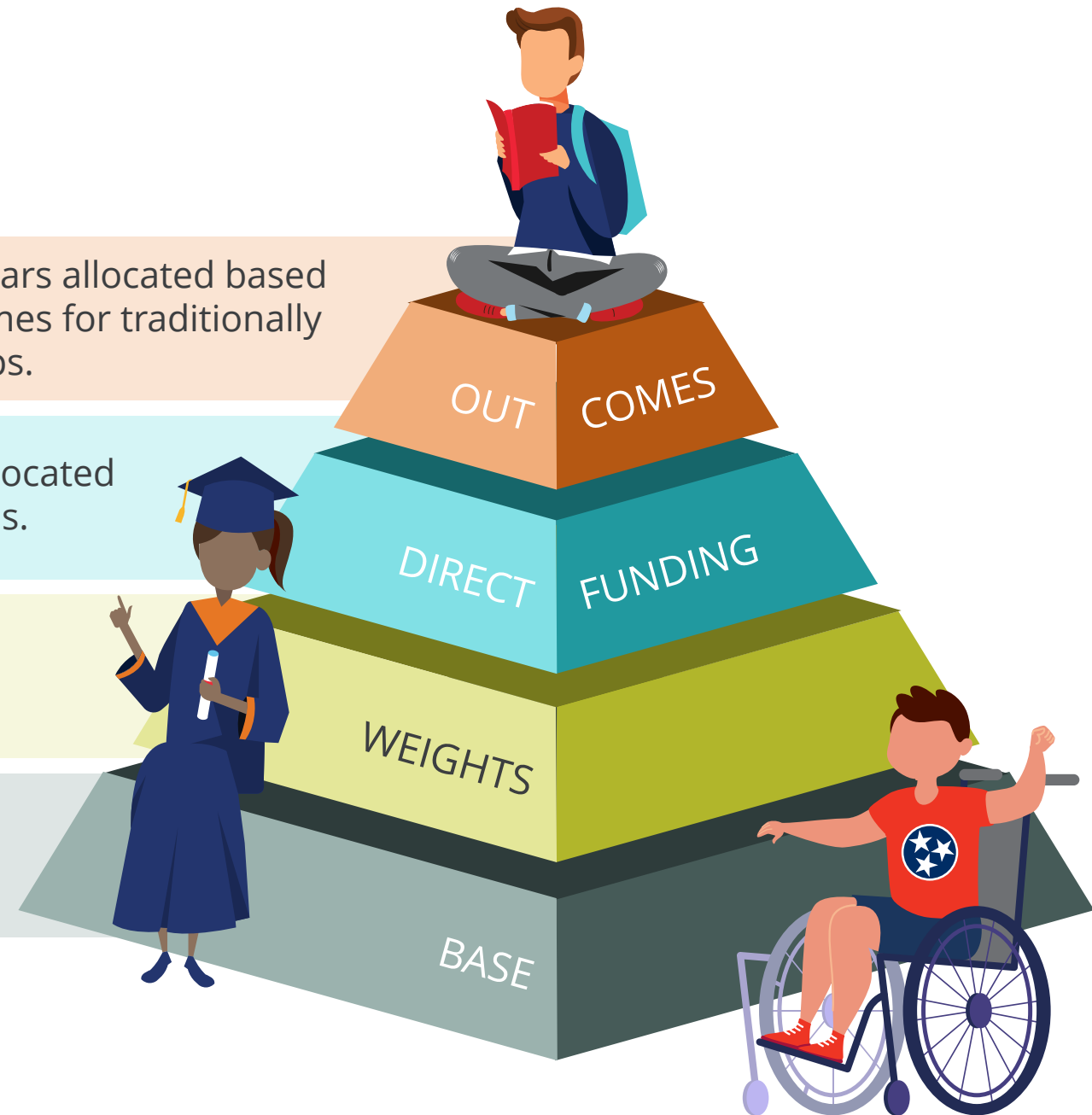
Potential Components of a Student-Based Formula

Outcomes: Additional dollars allocated based on getting stronger outcomes for traditionally higher-need student groups.

Direct Funding: The dollar amount allocated to students based on specific programs.

Weights: The weight (multiplier) assigned to students based on additional needs identified.

Base: The amount allocated to each student in the state for common education needs (those resources that should be provided to all students in the state).

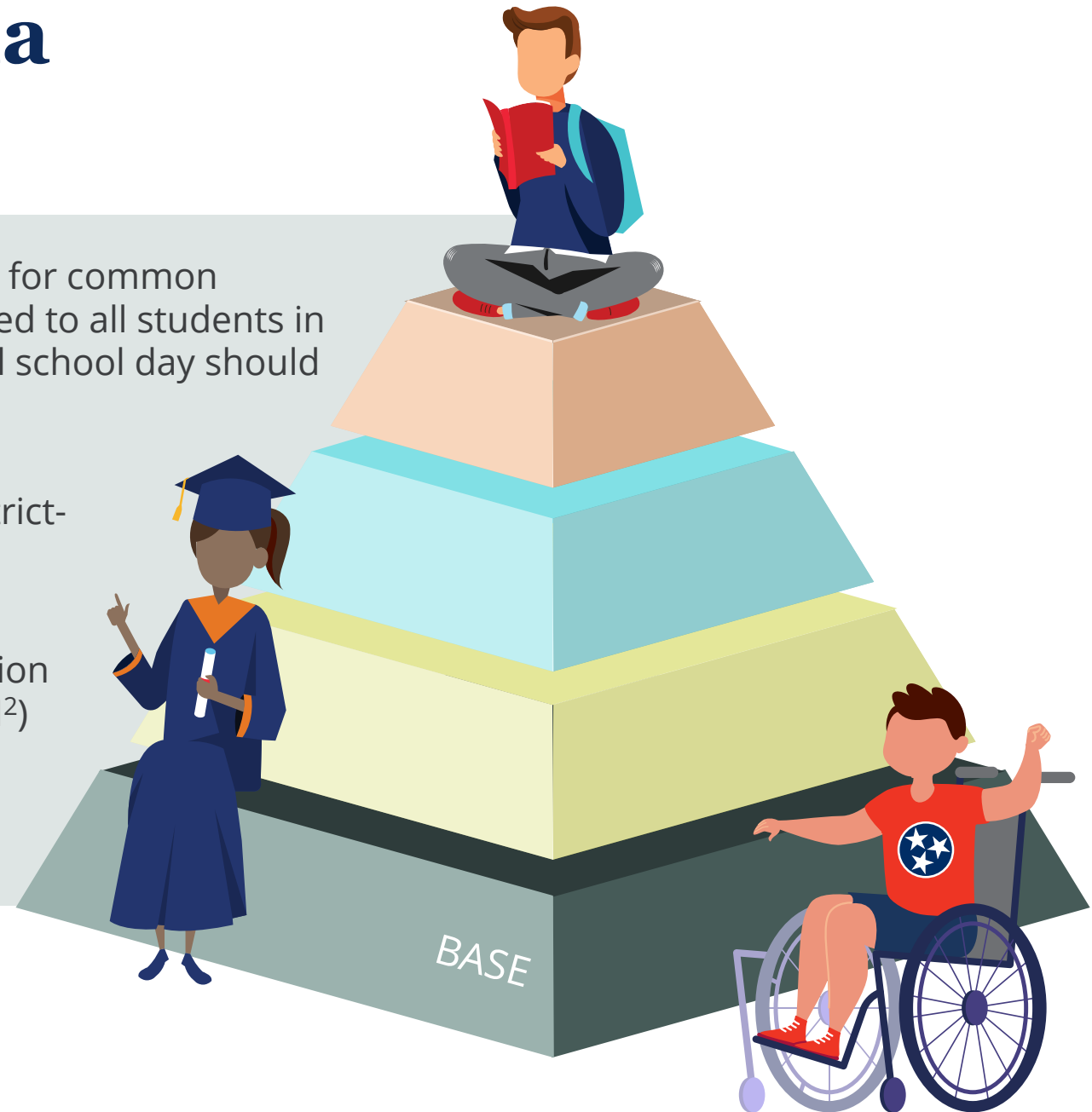


Student-Based Formula

Base Examples

Base: The amount allocated to each student in the state for common education needs (those resources that should be provided to all students in the state). It is how much the state funds what “a normal school day should include for everyone.” This typically includes:

- Educators, support staff, school-site staff
- Counselors, nurses, school psychologists
- Facilities and maintenance
- Base transportation
- District-level and district-wide supports
- Programs like Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²)

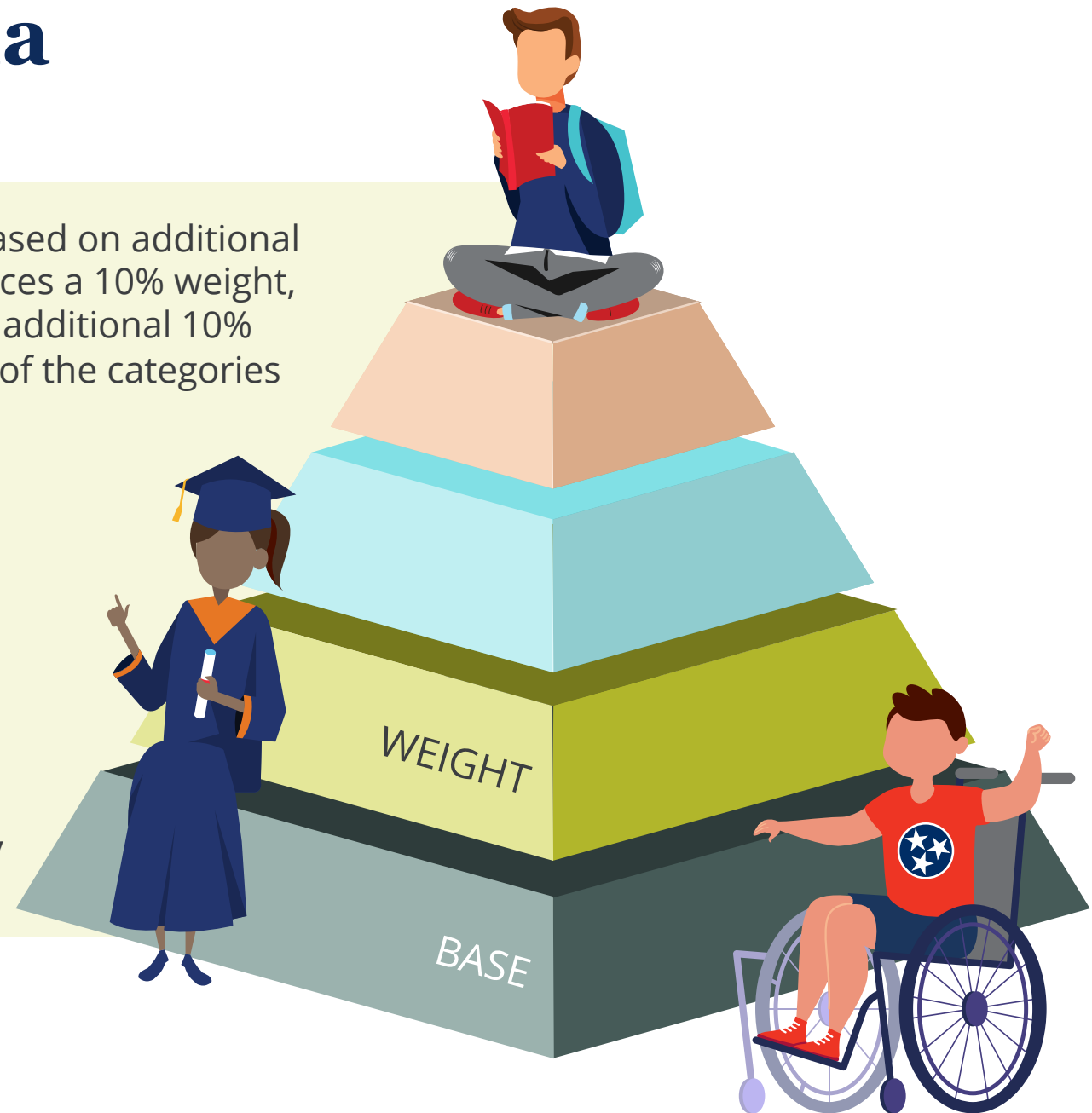


Student-Based Formula

Weights Examples

Weights: The weight (multiplier) assigned to students based on additional needs identified. For example, if a category below produces a 10% weight, then every student in that category would be funded an additional 10% (of the base amount). This weight would extend to each of the categories under which a student qualifies.

- Poverty (economically disadvantaged)
- Students with Disabilities (different levels)
- English learners
- Rurality and sparsity
- Fast Growing
- Grade Level (K-3)
- Charter enrollment
- Dyslexia
- Gifted
- Small District
- Concentrated poverty

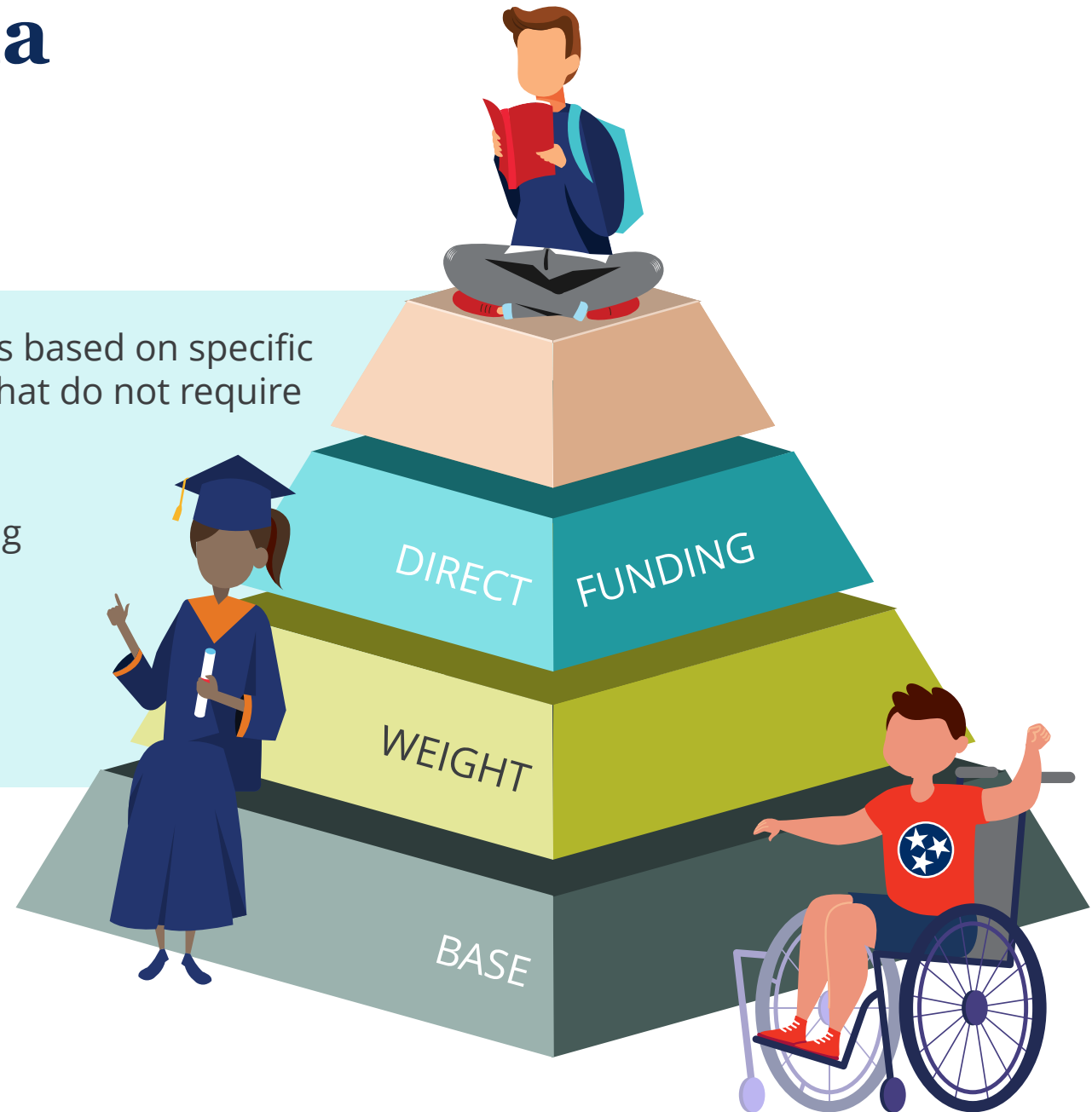


Student-Based Formula

Direct Funding Examples

Direct Funding: The dollar amount allocated to students based on specific programs. These are typically standard dollar amounts that do not require weights and have fixed costs assigned.

- ACT and ACT re-take for high school students
- Summer Programming
- 4 dual credit courses for high school students
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)



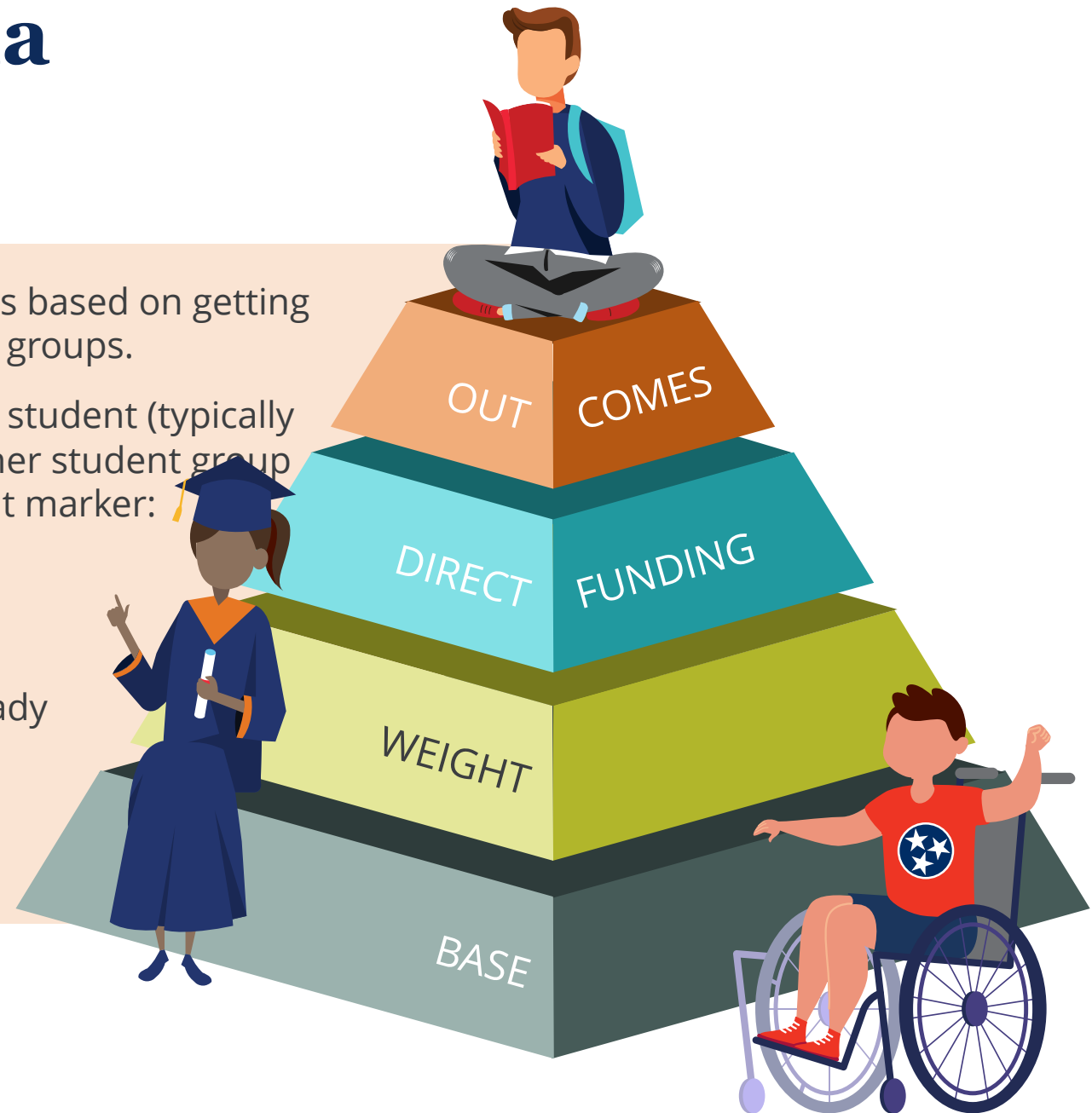
Student-Based Formula

Outcomes Examples

Outcomes: Additional bonus dollars allocated to districts based on getting stronger outcomes for traditionally higher-need student groups.

Some states consider providing additional funds when a student (typically low-income, English learner, child with a disability, or other student group experiencing an achievement gap) achieves an important marker:

- Successfully completes a certain amount of statewide dual credit or dual enrollment
- Earns an industry certification
- Passes an AP exam
- Achieves a college-ready level on the ACT



Goals for Transparency & Reporting

- **State:** Develops a clear, transparent and easy-to-understand formula that provides information to parents (student-level) and to the public (school and system-level).
- **Districts:** Provide reports on how much funding is generated by the students at each district school, including how much is allocated to the school site and how much is reserved for the district office (federally required reporting).
- **Public Schools and Public Charter Schools:** Provide information on how school-level funding is distributed and the ability to match that spending with student needs at the school (as funded by the formula).



Additional Resources to Review

- **Education Commission of the States:**
50-State Comparison of K-12 and Special Education Funding
<https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/k-12-and-special-education-funding-2021>
- **Southern Regional Education Board (SREB):**
Resources on K-12 issues to support investigating priorities and related costs <https://www.sreb.org/topics>
- **Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSS):**
<https://ccsso.org>



Public Engagement Opportunities

Public Engagement Opportunities



18 Public
Subcommittees



Local Public Official Working Feedback Sessions
Includes: superintendents, school board members, county commissioners, and municipal and special school district financial oversight leadership



8 Regional
Town Halls



Newsletters



**Twitter
Town Halls**



Dedicated Email-- tnedu.funding@tn.gov
accepting public comment from any Tennessean
for subcommittee review

Public Engagement Opportunities



Department of
Education

SUPPORTED



- **Toolkits:** TDOE will provide toolkits for school districts and community organizations to host local town halls throughout the state
- **School Funding Ambassadors:** TDOE will select School Funding Ambassadors who proactively volunteered to collect feedback in their communities on school funding
- **Vanderbilt Poll:** TDOE worked with TERA to include school funding-related questions in the Vanderbilt Poll (third-party, researcher-developed)
- **School Funding National and State Experts:** TDOE will work with a group of national experts on school funding to support formula development and answer questions from the Steering Committee and Subcommittees

- **Superintendent Study Council:** School funding will be a regular agenda item each month
- **Superintendent Monthly Regional Meetings:** Q&A with superintendents on school funding
- **Regular Local Engagement and Community Meetings:** TDOE leadership will solicit feedback and participate in smaller, personalized discussions across the state to gather feedback (as invited or scheduled)
- **TDOE Partner and Other Engagement Groups:** TDOE will request feedback from the 36+ regular engagement groups that work with the department on content-specific and stakeholder-specific topics
- **District Support:** TDOE will provide a no-cost professional development series on district-facing school funding and federal requirements (open to public school districts)
- **School Funding Professional Development:** Sessions provided on student-based budgeting (content will be made publicly available)

Roles, Responsibilities and Process

TN

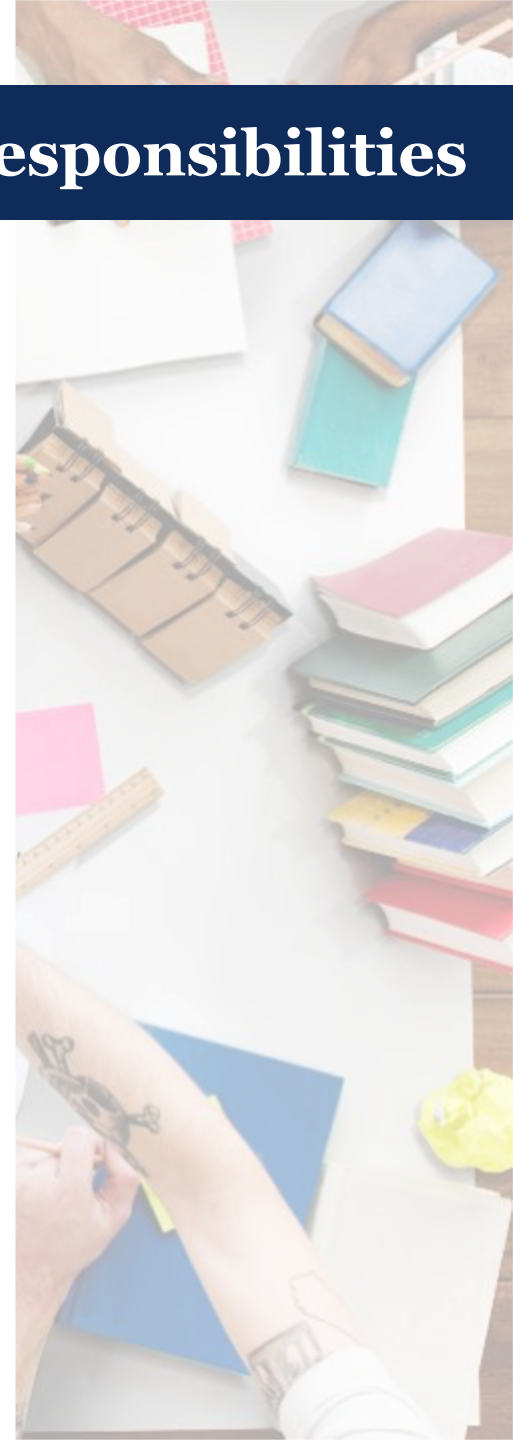
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Subcommittee Chairs

Roles & Responsibilities

- Facilitate subcommittee meetings.
- Work with the TDOE-assigned support staff who will ensure meeting invites and agendas are sent, meetings are recorded, and meeting recommendations have been accurately captured for committee comment and approval.
- Ensure all voices and perspectives represented on the committee are heard, as well as other sources of public input related to the topic area.
- Sign committee recommendation form to be submitted to the Steering Committee.



Subcommittee Members

Roles & Responsibilities

- Actively engage in committee meetings related to the topic and provide the lens of the community or group represented.
- Collect additional feedback from stakeholders and share that feedback in writing and in commentary during subcommittee meetings. (As much as possible, please cite feedback by person, research, article, etc.).
- If desired, provide a signed set of written recommendations to be attached as an addendum to the committee recommendations (to be included for the record).
- Select a Vice Chair, in the case the Chair is not available for a subcommittee meeting.



Subcommittee Focus Areas

Roles & Responsibilities

While every subcommittee is welcome to discuss any number of recommendations, subcommittees will be asked to focus on specific components of the formula:

- Some subcommittees may focus primarily on the base and what is needed for every student in the state.
- Some subcommittees may focus primarily on the needs of specific student groups (typically found in the weights and not applicable to all students).
- Some subcommittees may focus on targeted resources that could be included in the base, in the weights, and/or as general dollar allocations.



Subcommittee Structure and Materials



*Materials coded to
subcommittees
for review*

TDOE Events
and Materials

Public Comment
and Feedback

Ambassador
Collected
Feedback

Vanderbilt
Poll Data

*Available for
submitted
questions*

National and
State Experts

Subcommittees

Recommendations

Steering
Committee

Process Structure



Process



1

Information and feedback will be requested by the TDOE and is open to all Tennesseans.



2

Information and feedback will be **received in writing** via email, postal mail, provided at a TDOE-event, and/or through social media comments posted directly to school funding-related posts (Town Halls and Twitter Town Halls) and/or **provided through public comment at a TDOE event** and then transcribed and coded by the department.



3

A paralegal will code all above information received to one or more subcommittees.



4

Materials will be provided to subcommittees for review and consideration. Both an electronic and hard copy (unredacted) will be stored by the TDOE. Content identifying student information, stakeholder home address, or similar will be redacted before being sent to the subcommittees.



5

Recommendations are provided to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Meetings: Standard Agenda




Agenda


- Welcome and Call to Order
- Statement
- Roll Call and Attendance
- Discussion
- Next Meeting Details and Closing



Meeting Materials

- Agenda
- PowerPoint
- Templates
- Recommendation Template
- Public Comments

| Tennessee Funding Review Engagement | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Meeting Agenda & Worksheet <i>Title of Subcommittee</i> | | |
| AGENDA A. Welcome and Call to Order B. Preamble Statement C. Roll Call and Attendance D. Discussion E. Next Meeting Details | | |
| 1. GENERAL INFORMATION | | |
| Date: | Month Day, Year | Time: XX:XX am / pm – XX:XX am / pm |
| Location: | Microsoft TEAMS – Name, Address, City, State, Zip | |
| Members in Attendance: | List names here | |
| 2. REVIEW <i>(If this is your first meeting, note that here)</i> | | |
| | | |
| 3. DISCUSSION | | |
| Topic and Guiding Questions | | |
| | | |
| 4. NEXT MEETING DETAILS | | |
| Date: | Month Day, Year | Time: XX:XX am / pm – XX:XX am / pm |
| Location: | Name, Address, City, State, Zip | |
| Topic: | | |
|  tn.gov/education/tnedufunding Email: tnedu.funding@tn.gov Page 1 | | |

| Tennessee Funding Review Engagement | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Meeting Takeaways and Recommendations <i>Title of Subcommittee</i> | | |
| 1. GENERAL INFORMATION | | |
| Date: | Month Day, Year | Time: XX:XX am / pm – XX:XX am / pm |
| Location: | Microsoft TEAMS – Name, Address, City, State, Zip | |
| Members in Attendance: | List names here | |
| 2. Recommendations | | |
| Topic | | |
| | | |
| 4. FINAL THOUGHTS | | |
| | | |
|  tn.gov/education/tnedufunding Email: tnedu.funding@tn.gov Page 1 | | |

Transparency

- All written materials provided to the TDOE will be publicly available (either posted on the website or subject to public inspection).
- All subcommittee meetings will be publicly available (recorded and placed on the TDOE website). Subcommittee meetings will not have written notes, as the videos will be available to ensure all comments are fully and accurately posted for the record.
- All subcommittee recommendations will be publicly available and posted on the website.
- All Town Halls and Twitter Town Halls will be open to public.



Timelines and Deliverables



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Timeline & Meeting Topics

OCTOBER – JANUARY: Public Engagement Process



**Subcommittees may select to meet more often or extend the time of meetings based on the stated needs and preferences of the group. All meetings will be made publicly available for viewing.*

Deliverables

Each subcommittee should produce a **final** set of recommendations to be considered for a new funding formula.

Recommendations will iterate over time, as the subcommittees discuss additional information, review additional feedback, and consider the needs and costs of various resources for students in Tennessee.

Recommendations should be provided on public reporting (state, district, and school), tools, professional development, and transition resources that would be necessary with a new formula.



Thank you!

