

***Key Components of the 1998-99 Regents State Aid Proposal  
An Illustration of the Aid Impacts in Five Representative Districts***

- The following table highlights key formula areas addressed by the Regents Proposal. Five hypothetical districts highlight the aid impacts. In order to put these districts on a common footing for comparative purposes, the enrollment of all districts is set at 2,000 pupils. Representative districts were chosen based on four key variables, including: a) the district's Combined Wealth Ratio; b) its percent of Extraordinary Needs (EN) pupils<sup>1</sup>; c) its percent of Special Education pupils; and d) its tax rate. In theory, 24 district types were possible. The five sample districts chosen for illustration were selected to depict variation in district wealth and percentage of Extraordinary Need pupils.
  
- The top section of the table depicts basic wealth, expenditure, tax effort, and student need data for each sample district. *Subsequent sections illustrate key areas that the Regents propose to change, including:*
  1. Changes in Comprehensive Operating Aid by wealth-equalizing the existing 4.5% "cap" on COA increases, so that poorer districts would be permitted greater percentage increases before experiencing the cap.
  2. Modification of Summer School Aid by removing it from the existing set of aids now subject to limits on permissible increases, thereby providing districts a greater fiscal incentive to help certain students achieve higher standards.
  3. The New Standards Implementation Aid designed to help districts accelerate professional staff development, curriculum enhancement, and other ways of strengthening their ability to meet higher learning standards.
  4. Increased Emphasis upon Prevention and Support Services through a new Prevention and Support Services Aid (PSSA), to effectively maintain students in the general education program and diminish referral to Special Education programs.
  5. The Continuation of Public Excess Cost Aid with a future commitment to recommend discontinuation of the existing weighted pupil counts (which now provide a fiscal incentive to overplace pupils in more restrictive settings) and to move toward a more fiscally neutral allocation model based on enrollment and poverty.
  
- *The formula components above (1 to 5) represent the core Regents State Aid formula recommendations. Other formula components represent continuation of Present Law and entail no specific Regents recommendations. These two components together represent the total estimate of Aid. It may be particularly useful to compare the percentage increases depicted in these distinct district types due to: a) the core Regents Proposal (row S); b) the Present Law continuation component (row V), and c) the entire Aid change total for both components (row Y).*

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<sup>1</sup> EN pupils include students in poverty (eligible for the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program), Limited English Proficient pupils, and pupils living in geographically sparse areas.