

HOUSE BILL 2808

EVIDENCE BASED FUNDING

THE ACTUAL IMPACT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

We have received several questions from special education leaders across the State regarding the impact of the Evidence Based Funding Model (House Bill 2808) on special education programs and cooperatives. We wanted to take the time to separate fact from fiction with regard to the actual impact of evidence based funding on special education programs and cooperatives.



Will evidence based funding eliminate “direct and dedicated” funding for special education?

No. All funding for special education programs in schools must be used for special education programs.¹

What special education funding streams will be impacted by House Bill 2808?

Three sources of special education funding will be included in the new base funding minimum for school districts under House Bill 2808. Those three line items are:

- Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services
- Special Education Personnel
- Summer School State Aid²

The special education line items that are not touched by House Bill 2808 are:

- Chicago District 299 Special Education Block Grant
- Private Tuition
- Special Education Transportation
- Orphanage Tuition

Will special education cooperatives and joint agreements be a part of the evidence based funding model?

Special education cooperatives will access minimal new funding streams from the evidence based funding model through Tier 4, but the primary new funding is based on student enrollment in each district. However, all special education cooperatives will continue to receive the base funding minimum from the State. For example, if a special education cooperative received \$148,000 in state funding from the Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services line item, the Special Education Personnel line item and Summer School State Aid, they will continue to receive \$148,000 during the 2017-2018 school year.³

Tell me more about the base funding minimum. What does that mean for school districts?

The base funding minimum means that every school district will receive at least the same amount of money they have received from the State during the 2016-2017 school year during the next (2017-2018) school year. In addition to the special education line items listed above, included in the base funding minimum is each district’s General State Aid, Driver’s Education (where applicable) and Bilingual/ELL Grant (where applicable). To calculate the base funding minimum, a district should find the total amount that they received from the State through these line items during the 2016-2017 school year. For example:

Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services	\$103,000
Special Education Personnel	\$45,000
Summer School State Aid	\$650
General State Aid	\$300,000
Bilingual/ELL Grant	\$7500
Driver’s Education	\$0
Base Funding Minimum for 2017-2018	\$456,150

Remember that this is the MINIMUM that school districts will receive. All districts receive additional funding based on the elements in the evidence based funding formula.

¹ House Bill 2808, Page 353

² House Bill 2808, Page 342

³ House Bill 2808, Pages 342-343

Will personnel reimbursement grants be eliminated under the Evidence Based funding model?

Under the evidence based funding model, the amounts that are currently received through the Personnel Reimbursement line item become a part of the base funding minimum for schools.⁴ The amount of money received through the Personnel Reimbursement line item for a school district during the 2016 - 2017 school year will be used to determine the base funding minimum for evidence based funding. One example is seen below:

School Year	Number of Staff Claimed	Total Amount of Reimbursement	Year of Reimbursement
2015-16	3	\$27,000	2016-17
2016-17	4	\$36,000	2017-18

Since the school district listed above claimed four staff during the 2016 - 2017 school year, \$36,000 would be included as the base funding minimum for the 2017-2018 school year under evidence based funding. Importantly, no district will be losing money through the personnel reimbursement line item under HB 2808.

How much new money will a school district receive under evidence based funding?

Funding calculations under the evidence based model are found in the following formula:

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{District Adequacy} \\ \text{Target} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{l} \text{Comparable} \\ \text{Wage Index} \end{array} \right) - \begin{array}{l} \text{Local Capacity Target} \\ \text{CPPRT} \\ \text{Base Funding Minimum} \end{array} = \text{Net State Contribution} \quad 5$$

The funding calculations for all school districts under the evidence based model are available at

 www.isbe.net

Keyword:

 [Education Funding Proposals](#)

⁴ House Bill 2808, Page 342

⁵ House Bill 2808, Pages 334-343

⁶ House Bill 2808, Page 327

⁷ House Bill 2808, Page 327

⁸ House Bill 2808, Page 326

⁹ House Bill 2808, Page 333

¹⁰ House Bill 2808, Page 333

¹¹ House Bill 2808, Page 333

¹² House Bill 2808, Page 332

¹³ House Bill 2808, Page 353

On top of the base funding minimum, what additional money will be available for school districts under the evidence based funding model?

There are three specific elements which under the evidence based funding model that will help support students with special education needs.

Element	Positions	K-5 Ratios	6-12 Ratios
8	Guidance Counselors / Social Workers ⁶	1:450 students	1:250 students
	Nurses ⁷	1:750	1:750
22	Reading & Math Specialists ⁸	1:450	1:600
27	Special Education Teacher ⁹	1:141	1:141
	School Psychologists ¹⁰	1:1000	1:1000
	Teaching Assistants ¹¹	1:141	1:141

Additionally, school districts receive additional staff in elements 8 and 22 when there are concentrations of students living in poverty (based on every 125 DHS students in the school) or concentrations of students identified as EL (based on every 125 EL students in the school), the school receives additional staff members.¹² For example, if a high school has 1500 students and of those students, 150 of them are living in poverty and 175 students are students with English language learning needs, they would receive the following staffing allocations under evidence based funding:

7.0 FTE Social Workers

2.0 FTE Nurses

3.0 FTE Content Specialists

10.6 FTE Special Education Teachers

10.6 FTE Teaching Assistants

1.5 FTE School Psychologists

Will school districts be able to use the new money on anything that they would like?

No. The bill requires all dollars meant for special education (those from the base funding minimum and element 27) to be spent on special education based on the IEPs for students.¹³ This was specifically done to guarantee that school districts and special education cooperatives do not run into issues with maintenance of effort requirements and that special education student needs are met.

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