

Modeling for Distribution Formula per School \$1,000,000

In the PAC meeting on 3/19/2025, distributing discretionary dollars to schools for principals to determine how to use their allocations in their school communities was discussed as a potential recommendation. There was an example given of a per-student funding model, and a per-school model was also mentioned. Both result in a more equitable distribution than the previous LSF model, but there are additional variations that can mitigate some of the challenges of both. We developed a tool to explore these variations that allows for unlimited tinkering; happy to share it if the group wants to dig into these possibilities further.

5 Potential Models for Distribution of Discretionary Dollars to Schools for Parent Advisory Committee Consideration

(1) Flat Per-Student distribution

- How it works: Total dollars raised are divided by the total number of students enrolled in the district, and then those dollars are distributed to each school based on their enrollment.
- Considerations:
 - Straightforward to explain and implement
 - Results in schools with higher enrollment getting more than schools with lower enrollment
 - The majority of parent fundraising (about 70%) has historically come from elementary school (K5 and K8) communities. But only about 44% of the district's students are enrolled in elementary schools.
 - Schools with low enrollment may not receive enough to do something impactful.
 - Wide variation in amount received because there is so much variation in enrollment, even between the same kinds of schools. Note—many schools with low enrollment also serve higher needs populations than many of the schools with the highest enrollment.

Flat Per-Student Distribution Example: If the fund raised \$2 million with current enrollment (44,086 students)

- Per student dollar amount: \$45.36
- Smallest traditional school allocation (Rosa Parks K5; 172 students) = \$7,801.92
- Largest traditional school allocation (Grant HS; 2149 students) = \$97,478.64

(2) Variation: Per-Student Distribution with Grade Band Weighting

- How it works: Total dollars raised are allocated to each grade band (Elementary, Middle School, and High School). This allocation can be weighted, so that the amount given to each grade band does not necessarily reflect the percentage of PPS students in those grades. Those grade band allocations are then divided by the number of **students** in each grade band to determine how much each school gets, based on their enrollment. Current enrollment is currently:
 - 44% of PPS students (19,582 students) are in K5 and K8 schools

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- 17% of PPS students (7,356 students) are in middle schools
- 30% of PPS students (13,138 students) are in high schools
- 3.5% of PPS students (1,554 students) are in district alternative schools
- 5.5% of PPS students (2,456 students) are in CBOs, special services and public charters.
 - Question for Robyn—how much of the LSF/Parent Fund distribution historically went to schools in this group?
- Grade bands are then weighted to shift the distribution.
- Within each grade band, dollars would then be divided by the number of students at each grade band and then distributed to each school on a per-student basis.

Per-Student Distribution with Grade Band Weighting Example: If the fund raised \$2 million with current enrollment (44,086 students):

- The committee could provide a rationale that the distribution should be weighted towards elementary schools and shift the distribution. One example is given below, but these percentages could be anything:
 - 60% of funds go to K5 and K8 schools
 - 15% of funds go to middle schools
 - 22% of funds go to high schools
 - 3% of funds go to alternatives/charters etc.
- With \$2 million, the example above would look like:
 - K5 and K8: \$1,200,000 divided by 19,582 students = \$61.28 per student
 - School distribution would range from \$10,540 at the smallest school to \$40,200 at the largest school
 - MS: \$300,000 divided by 7,356 students = \$40.78 per student
 - School distribution would range from \$13,375 at the smallest school to \$29,158 at the largest school
 - HS: \$440,000 divided by 13,138 students = \$33.49 per student
 - School distribution would range from \$15,372 at the smallest school to \$71,970 at the largest school
 - Alternatives: \$60,000 divided by 4010 students = \$14.96 per student

(3) Flat Per-School Distribution:

- How it works: The total amount raised by the fund is divided by the total number of schools in the district. Each school gets the same amount of funding allocated.
- Considerations:
 - Straightforward to explain and implement
 - Does not result in schools getting more/less funding based on enrollment
 - Because there are many more elementary schools than there are middle or high schools, the distribution is weighted towards elementary (67% of funds go to elementary schools)
 - Need to determine how to allocate funds for students enrolled in special services/charters/CBOs rather than PPS traditional or alternative schools

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Flat Per-School Distribution Example: If the fund raised \$2 million with 84 traditional and alternative schools:

- Each school would get \$23,820 (or less depending on how CBO, special services, and public charters might be included)

(4) Variation: Weighted Per-School Distribution

- How it works: Total dollars raised are allocated to each grade band (Elementary, Middle School, and High School). This allocation can be weighted, so that the amount given to each grade band does not necessarily reflect the percentage of PPS students in those grades. Those grade band allocations are then divided by the number of **schools** in each grade band to determine how much each school gets. Their allocation is not determined by enrollment. Current number of schools:
 - 56 K5 and K8 schools (19,582 students)
 - 15 Middle Schools (7,356 students)
 - 9 High Schools (13,138 students)
 - 4 Alternative Schools (1552 students)
 - 2456 additional PPS students served in CBO, Special Services, and Public Charters.

Weighted Per-School Distribution Example: If the fund raised \$2 million with 84 traditional and alternative schools and set the following grade band weights (remember, these percentages can be changed—this is one example):

- 60% of funds distributed to 56 elementary (K5 and K8) schools
- 15% of funds distributed to 15 middle schools
- 20% of funds distributed to 9 high schools
- 3% of funds distributed to 4 alternative schools
- 2% of funds distributed to the remaining 2456 PPS students served in CBO, Special Services, and Public Charters

The resulting distribution would be as follows:

- Elementary schools each get \$21,429
- Middle schools each get \$20,000
- High schools each get \$44,444
- Alternative schools each get \$15,000
- Remaining funds distributed on a per-student basis (approx. \$16 per student)

(5) Alternative: Combination Model

- How it works: A percentage of funds raised are set aside for a baseline per-school allocation, and the remaining funds are divided on a per-student basis across the district. School allocations are the sum of the baseline allocation plus a per-student allocation based on their enrollment.

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- Considerations:
 - Ensures that every school receives a minimum level regardless of enrollment
 - Acknowledges that the number of students enrolled impact how far the money can go
 - Could additionally incorporate weights by grade band as described above

Combination Model Example: If the fund raised \$2 million with 84 traditional and alternative schools and current enrollment level (44,086 students):

- 60% of funds raised distributed using a flat per-school allocation
 - \$1,200,000 divided by 84 schools = \$14,286 for each school
- 40% of funds raised distributed using a flat per-student allocation
 - \$800,000 divided by 44,086 students = \$18.15 per student
- School allocations range from \$17,407 at the smallest school (172 students) to \$53,290 at the largest school (2149 students)
- CBO/Charter/Special Services receive a per-student allocation only

Comparison Table:

- Assumes \$2 million dollars raised and 44,086 enrollment
- Illustrates example distributions provided above
- Percentages and dollar amounts are rounded to nearest whole number, not exact
- Tool is available to investigate impact of different baseline, weights, and percentages

Distribution Type	Smallest School Allocation	Largest School Allocation	% of funds to K5/K8 Schools	% of funds to middle schools	% of funds to high schools	% of funds to alternatives
(1) Flat Per-Student	\$7,802	\$97,479	44%	17%	30%	9%
(2) Weighted Per-Student	\$10,540	\$71,970	60%	15%	22%	3%
(3) Flat Per-School	\$23,820	\$23,820	67%	18%	11%	5%
(4) Weighted Per-School	\$21,429 (K5-K8s) or \$15,000 (alts)	\$44,444 (high schools)	60%	15%	20%	5%
(5) Combination	\$17,407	\$53,290	58%	17%	18%	7%