

THE EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) GRANT:

The Original ECS Formula, Current Law, and The Governor's Commission's Proposal

	Original ECS Formula (if in place today)	Current Law	Governor's Commission's Proposal
Foundation Amount Calculation	\$8,122 Amount spent on the 80th percentile need student three years prior. (Calculation based on costs for <u>regular education</u> students, only.)	\$5,891 Set by General Assembly. (Includes costs for regular and special education students).	\$9,687 Amount spent on the 80th percentile need student three years prior. (Calculation based on costs for <u>regular and special education</u> students).
Frequency of Calculation	Foundation adjusted every year.	Foundation not adjusted since FY 00.	Foundation adjusted every other year.
Wealth Measures			
State Guaranteed Wealth Level (SGWL)	2.00	1.55	1.75
Minimum Aid Ratio	0.0%	6.0%	Would rise to 10% by end of phase-in period. Cannot fall below current minimum of 6%.
Town Wealth	ENGL per student adjusted for per capita income.	ENGL per student & ENGL per capita, adjusted for per capita income & median household income.	No change from current law.
Need Students	574,362	600,927	600,927
Resident Students	Reg. Ed. Students	Reg. + Spec. Ed.	Reg. + Spec. Ed., but magnet school students would no longer be included in a district's need student count.
Poverty	'96-'97 Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) Count x 0.25	'96-'97 Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) Count x 0.25	[The greater of: (1) most recent TFA count, (2) # of students in free/reduced price lunch program, or (3) each district's federal poverty count.] x [a factor close to .25] *
Remedial students	%age of mastery test scores at or below remedial performance on mastery test x resident students x 0.25.	%age of mastery test scores at or below remedial performance on mastery test x resident students x 0.25.	Eliminated. (Commission chose to eliminate this weight, as is seemed to reward district's for poor performance.)
Limited English proficiency	ELL students x 0.10	ELL students x 0.10	ELL students x 0.20
Regional Bonus			
Size of bonus	Up to \$25 per "regional student"	Up to \$100 per "regional student"	No change from current law.
Cost of bonus	\$612,000	\$2,447,250	\$2,447,250
Supplemental Formula Aid	\$0	\$5,576,500	\$0
Density Formula Aid	\$0	\$5,454,300	\$0
Total ECS Grant	\$2,367,198,996	\$1,627,321,377	\$2,771,194,735
Size of Cap	\$0	(\$54,007,902)	\$0
Size of Stoploss	\$33,349,000	\$135,376,055	Unknown. But only a very few towns would require stoploss protection.

* The proposed change to the poverty *count* would drive large amounts of grant money to poorer districts. This would occur absent any changes to the poverty *weight*, currently at 0.25. The Commission reserved the right to lower the rate from 0.25, if required, as long as the overall impact of changing the poverty *count* and lowering the poverty *weight* resulted in significant new funds.