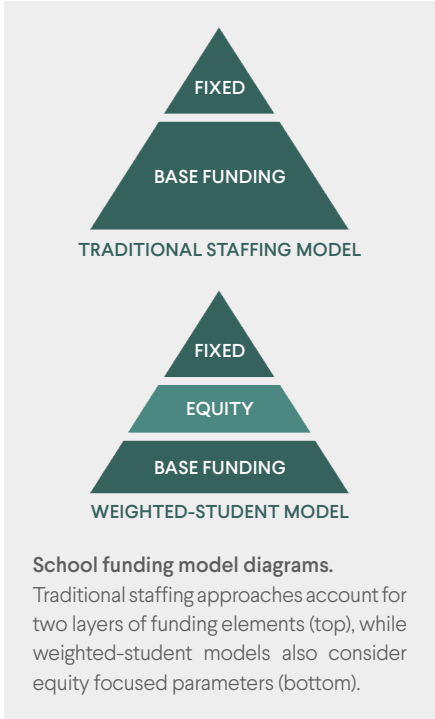


How school funding models are related to resource equity.



K-12 district budget offices make decisions that affect school expenditures. Traditionally, districts allocate money to schools using a teacher-driven “staffing” approach. Districts determine the staffing needs of their schools, set rules that link staffing to enrollment, and distribute funds accordingly.

Funding decisions can also be tied to the unique needs of each school’s student enrollment – the “weighted-student” model. For this student-driven approach, districts assign weights to different student characteristics. In doing so, funding is distributed to schools in a more strategic, equitable way. When schools receive funding based on enrolled student characteristics, resources can be made available at the school-level to support student need and drive student outcomes.



Elements of a student-driven funding approach

FIXED ELEMENTS

Plant ops	Utilities	Principals	Transportation	Specialty programs	Title programs & services
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These largely fundamental, school-based costs are considered “locked” components. These are the fixed costs of both traditional staffing and weighted funding models.

EQUITY FOCUSED ELEMENTS

English language learners	Students with disabilities	Low/high performing students	Students from circumstances of poverty	At-risk or discipline students	Retained students
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Resource equity is closely tied to student characteristics. When these factors are appropriately weighted in funding models, districts allocate funding to schools based on the unique needs of their student populations.

BASE FUNDING ELEMENTS

Supplies & materials	Substitute teachers	Activity buses	Admin. staff	Guidance, counselors, social workers	Support staff
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Base elements reflect the minimum resources that schools need to operate and, along with fixed components, comprise the entirety of a traditional staffing funding model.