Proposal for Consideration by the Task Force on the Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report December 1, 2021

Recalibration of Weights/Cost Equity Amounts

Once the General Assembly updates the weighting factors or determines the cost equity amounts, they will need to be periodically updated to reflect cost changes. This is because the weighting factors/cost equity amounts are designed to provide resources to school districts based on their costs of educating students, and these costs will change over time.

The Task Force recommends that the Agency of Education and the Joint Fiscal Office:

- Enter into an agreement to share data, models, and other information that are needed to update the weighting factors/cost equity amounts (data sharing agreement).
- Each host the same statistical model used to provide modelling for the Pupil Weighting Factors Report dated December 24, 2019 and ensure that this model is updated and maintained on both systems in parallel.
- Recalibrate the weights and/or the cost equity amounts every [three] years to account for cost changes, including changes in the costs associated with providing substantially equal educational opportunity, demographics, and school district configurations. AOE and JFO would recalibrate the weights/cost equity model based on their consensus view and these changes would be implemented without further legislative action.

The recalibrated weights and/or the cost equity amounts would be made public in time for their use during the next school budget cycle, perhaps attached to the December 1st letter issued by the Commissioner of Taxes under 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(a).