



The SEAC feedback on the Tiered Multiplier

SEAC would like to provide the following feedback regarding the draft proposal for a tiered Multiplier for Special Education Funding:

- The switch to a tiered multiplier should happen all at once, rather than phasing it out over six years. Special education students are general education students first. Not fully funding special education has a direct impact on equity, opportunity and access for students with disabilities.
- We have concerns around the additional burden of data collection due to the new model. SEAC requests clarity as to how this will impact districts.
- Supplementary aids and services should be included in the calculation.
- Further consideration should be given to the 3121 allocation. Dollars follow a Student with a Disability who receives instruction in the general education classroom. The shift to a tiered multiplier is positive, but the 3121 dollars will shift from a special education to a general education allocation, which may result in them being used differently by the district (to staff for basic education in elementary, and by period in secondary). We have concerns that special education programs will still be underfunded and we would like to see additional data for some district scenarios to understand that impact better.
- The model should include an allowance for direct service minutes and for concurrent minutes (behavior support during academic instruction and/or related services at same time).
- We have continued concerns that the tiered multiplier will not fully decrease the district's reliance on local levy funds to fund special education. Simply addressing the funding gap will not result in fully funding and resourcing special education.
- The SEAC believes that further guidance will be needed to understand how districts will need to be staffed to provide an inclusive program of education. Understanding if and how that can be achieved within the prototypical model will be important.

Other Resources:

OSP–Special Education–SEAC:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/SEAC/default.aspx>

SEAC Email: SEAC@k12.wa.us

OSPI–Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/waOSPI>

OSPI–Twitter: <https://twitter.com/waOSPI>

OSPI-Special Education: 360-725-6075