



What is Fair Student Funding?

Total School Budgets

New York City (NYC) school budgets are funded through a variety of sources, which can be categorized into 3 buckets.

1. Categorical funding from the federal government and the state
2. City programmatic funding
3. Fair Student Funding (FSF)



Federal and state categorical funding, as well as City programmatic funding, **must be used for specific programs**, staff, goods, and/or services. In contrast, **FSF is flexible** and can be spent at the principal's discretion.

FSF is supported by City funding ("City tax levy" or CTL) and State funding (e.g., Foundation Aid). In the 2023-2024 school year, FSF comprised 57% of a school's total budget, on average.

Fair Student Funding (FSF) Formula

The NYC Department of Education (DOE) created and implemented the FSF formula in the 2007-2008 school year (though it was not fully funded until the 2021-2022 school year). **FSF is used to fund almost all traditional public schools.** Schools that only serve special education students, alternative schools, and charter schools (District 75, 79, and 84 schools, respectively) are funded separately, and do not receive FSF.

FSF has three major components:

- a fixed **foundation** amount of \$225,000 per school, regardless of size, meant to cover core administrative staff
- a variable **entitlement** amount
- a variable **collective bargaining (CB)** amount that funds increases to staff salaries as



Dollar and percentage amounts as of the 2023-2024 school year.

negotiated by the City through collective bargaining

FSF Entitlement

Base Amount

The base amount is the dollar amount associated with a weight of 1.0. The base amount is updated annually to reflect changes in average teacher salaries. For example, in the 2023-2024 school year, when the base was \$4,237, a weight of 0.12 was worth \$508.

Weighted Student Register

Each student receives weights for their needs. Weights are additive, and students are often eligible for multiple weights, with most students receiving a weight of more than 1.0. Needs, as defined in FSF, historically fell into five major categories:

1. grade level
2. special education
3. English language learner
4. academic intervention
5. portfolio school (e.g., career & technical education, or CTE, schools).

As of the 2023-2024 school year, there are also weights for:

6. students in temporary housing (STH)
7. students in the 304 schools with the highest levels of “concentrated need”

Within these major FSF need categories, there are various weights depending on a student’s specific needs. A full list of all weights is available on [DOE’s website](#).

The figure on the next page shows the calculation of the weight for a *hypothetical* student. This hypothetical student receives a total weight of 3.14: a weight of 1.0 for being in fourth grade (the grade weight for K-5 students), a weight of 1.74 to support their special education services, and a weight of 0.40 for performing well below standards. In the 2023-2024 school year, a school would have received \$13,305 through FSF to support this student: the total weight of 3.14 multiplied by the base amount (\$4,237).

FSF Weight Calculations for a Hypothetical Student



The **weighted student register** is the sum of the weights for all students in a school, which is then multiplied by a **base amount** to determine a school's total FSF entitlement.

Calculating FSF Allocation

The figure below shows a calculation of FSF for a *hypothetical* elementary school.

FSF calculations for any specific NYC public school are available on DOE's website, and explained in IBO's video series [Demystifying School Budgets](#).

Example School-Level FSF Calculation in the 2023-2024 School Year

Student Need Category	Student Count	Weight	Count x Weight
Grade K-5	500	1.00	500
Below academic standards	250	0.40	100
Bilingual program	100	0.44	44
Inclusive special education	77	1.74	134
Weighted Register			778
FSF Entitlement (Weighted Register x Base)			\$3,296,684
FSF Foundation			\$225,000
FSF Collective Bargaining (CB)			\$936,144
Total FSF Allocation			\$4,457,828

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