

CSFP Advisory Meeting

April 15, 2016

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Additions to CSFP's Annual District Profile Reports

- Weighting students based on need – adjustments for:
 - Special Education
 - English Language Learners
 - Gifted and Talented
 - At-risk (Free and Reduced Lunch – FRL)
- Funding category: Creating new gap amount to reflect student equity issues

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Profile Report Additions (continued)

- Mill Levies
 - Capacity of what a mill can generate
 - Variance in Colorado
 - What was the system Colorado had prior to the 1994 act?
 - What has happened to the assessment rate?
 - Mill levies outside the formula

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Mill Levy Movement

- Floating up and down
- How do you account for different mill levy capacity?
- Could you set a minimum / maximum mill a district has to raise?
- Does it change the definition of a “wealthy” district.

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What Do Other States Do?

- Many state formulas require each district to levy an equal mill rate in order to participate in the equalization formula.

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Ideas to Consider

- This means that all districts are required to make the same tax rate effort but generate different dollars based on the districts local wealth.
- The state sets the target level of funding within the foundation formula and the local effort is subtracted from this target to determine state aid.
- Often, districts that can raise the total target level of funding with mill levy lower than the required are only mandated to levy up to generating the total target level of funding.

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Why Important?

- Discussion at the legislature – Joint Education Committee and JBC meetings
- Legislation charging Legislative Staff to do this Work
- Legislature’s desire to rid themselves of the “debt owed to K-12” – by equalizing downward

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Mesa County Ruling

- What are the findings from Mesa County?
- If a district received voter approval to keep additional revenue then at that point in time their mill could be frozen and not continue to drop when calculating school finance
- The year of 2008 was arbitrary – not a finding in the court case
- What could this mean?

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Mesa County cont.

- Districts currently impacted – locally funded – mills still decreasing until this year’s SFA proposal
- What additional revenue could a district obtain?
- Can a district raise it’s mill back to where it was when local election was passed?

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Other Local Governments

- Have Cities, Counties, etc. had same impact from lowering their mill levies?
- Why were they given a “time out”?
- Why is K-12 not given this option?
- Why is it given to some districts this year?
- Could this practice be reversed?

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Statewide Mill

- What is this?
- How does it work?
- Who collects the revenue?
- How is this divided?
- Power Equalization

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Questions & Concerns

- Today
- Later –
contact me



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