

**CSFP Briefing Document:
What is the Timing for School Finance?
Are Adjustments Made Throughout the Year?**

The timing of the legislatures work on school finance and district decisions for their budget are not synced.

Legislature

January to early May: The legislature convenes in January and begins work on School Finance in March or April for the upcoming school year. (i.e. January – May 2020 convening, determining funding for 2020-21 school year.)

To determine funding for the upcoming 2020-21 school year the legislature uses estimates. Once actual numbers are available and state forecasts are updated, the legislature may adjust funding to districts in January.

- I. An **estimated enrollment count** (from May 2020) is used until CDE audits the October Membership Count in December 2020.
- II. An **estimated local share** (local property taxes and specific ownership tax) is used until the final mill levy certification, which is determined in December 2020.
- III. In **January 2021, via the Supplemental Process, the legislature adjusts allocations to school district funding.** The desired outcome is to increase revenue to reflect enrollment changes and local property tax collections. When **the state does not make up what might be needed in additional revenue it is then taken back from a school district in the form of a mid-year rescission.**

School Districts

Finance decisions for the upcoming school year are decided **prior** to finalizing the school finance act. School districts must register students, hire staff, and determine class offerings by March of 2020. Districts must adopt the upcoming fiscal years’ budget by the end of June 2020.