

October Pupil Count: Where Are The Students? Presentation to DBO

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COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

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Student Count – Drives Resources

STUDENT COUNT	DATE OF COUNT	FUNDING FORMULA	CATEGORICAL
Total Enrollment	October Count	Funded Pupil Count basis for total program funding	
At-Risk	October Count	Free Lunch count used for Total Program Funding	
English Language Learners	October Count	Used for a small piece of At-Risk Funding	Basis for EL funding

Student Count – Drives Resources

STUDENT COUNT	DATE OF COUNT	FUNDING FORMULA	CATEGORICAL
Kindergarten	October Count	Part of Funded Pupil Count	
Prekindergarten	October Count	Used for CPP funding	
Special Education	December Count		Basis for Special Education

What is the current problem?

- Is this a short-term problem?
 - Likely this is pandemic related
 - Should it be a reason to change methodology
- Changing the count approach
 - Costly to state and districts
 - Reduces funding unless there is increase in formula funding
- Considerations
 - What would new audit process look like
 - What would the “true up” process look like

Types of Counts

- For any count type must consider
 - Which students are counted
 - How frequently
 - Audit Requirements
 - When data is trued up
- Single Day (or a window of time) – COLORADO APPROACH
 - Current process is “trued up” within 45 days
- Multi Day – states differ on implementation
 - Includes two or more counts, auditing multiple dates, can create true up issues

Types of Counts

- **Average Daily Attendance**

- Must decide if count is daily versus per class, process can be labor intensive, states often use SIS to track attendance (lowers audit issues), can create true up issue

- **Average Daily Membership**

- States vary widely on window for averaging, must have rules on when a student leaves membership, can have auditing issues, can create true up issues

National Landscape

States Handling Differently

- Some adjusting
 - Michigan
 - California
- Others already use prior year
 - Will face issues next school year
- Some, like Colorado, relying on averaging components of formulas

QUESTIONS

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