

Equity Analysis - Overview

Definitions of *Equity* in analysis –

Horizontal Equity: Treats everyone equally – does not take into account student or district need but tries to ensure that all students and districts are treated equally.

Vertical Equity: Attempts to address student and district needs and makes adjustments for characteristics that have cost implications.

Fiscal Neutrality: Attempts to address issues related to district wealth – addressing the issue that your zip code should not drive the education services available to you.

Definitions of terms in analysis -

Wealth: Districts who generate more local taxes than relying on state funds - property value per student of each district

Size: Student enrollment of each district

Student Need: Students who are identified as Special Education, Non English Speaking and At-risk, which is “eligible for free lunch”

How analysis was conducted-

Looked at 2007-08 CDE data and 2012-13 CDE data – allowed comparison between years and examination of the impact of the negative factor

Looked at all 178 school districts and also just the 116 districts who had enrollment over 310 students

Disaggregated districts into quintiles (five groups for 178 districts) or quartiles (four groups for 116 districts) by size, wealth and student need – and then examined each by weighted and unweighted student counts

Results:

1. State’s system of funding does not appear to provide sufficient adjustments for district student need.
2. System allows wealthiest districts to raise more dollars per pupil than other districts with far lower tax effort – creating large revenue differences between districts.
3. The system equalizes state revenue well – and adjusts for size – this does not mean that it is adequate.
4. The system does not make adequate adjustment for student need differences between districts – as a result, districts with the highest needs have fewer teachers per 1,000 weighted students than other districts.
5. Districts that are primarily locally funded or that can raise override dollars have been somewhat cushioned from the full impact of the negative factor compared to other districts across the state – creating inequities.