School Finance Glossary

School finance should supply an adequate or sustainable amount of resources, in addition to an equitable distribution.

1. Amendment 23
   a. To “catch up” K-12 funding to 1988-89 funding levels over a 10-year time span (2000-2010).
   b. Not meant to meet the goals of an adequate, equitable or sustainable educational amount.

2. Adequate or Sustainable Amount
   a. The dollars a school district “needs” so students can meet the academic expectations and for staff and districts to meet the requirements they are held accountable to by the state and Federal government.
   b. This amount can be determined through different cost approaches.

3. Equitable
   a. A distribution of resources based on the variances of a school district and the student population they are serving.
   b. Should take into account school district enrollment, cost of living adjustments, students who have special needs – Special Education, English Language Learners and At-risk.

4. Equal – a dollar amount that all districts begin with in a formula, also known as the base amount.

5. Total Program Funding – formula defined in state statute
   a. Does not include categoricals, local mill levy revenue, Federal revenue, grants or capital dollars for facilities.

6. Local Overrides
   a. Additional revenues districts ask their communities to support (via a local election) for local district initiatives.
   b. Never meant to supplant a state debt like the negative factor.