

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 636

S. P. 256

In Senate, February 8, 1967

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Katz of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Changing the Foundation Program Per Pupil Allowances.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows :

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 3721, repealed and replaced. Section 3721 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof :

§ 3721. Foundation program, defined

To help equalize educational opportunity and guarantee a minimum program of education for all children throughout the State there is established a foundation program or level of education, expressed in terms of a minimum dollar cost per pupil, in which the State will participate rendering greater financial assistance to the less able administrative units.

Criteria for the foundation program shall be :

1. **Scope.** The scope of the school program shall include kindergarten education for 5-year old children and all grades through grade 12 ;

2. **Cost.** The cost of the foundation program shall include expenditures for teachers' salaries and board, including any money paid by a school administrative unit under an annuity contract for the benefit of an employee, fuel, janitors' services, textbooks, reference books, school supplies for desk or laboratory use, public utility services, flags, replacement of instructional equipment, fire insurance, compensation for superintendent and his assistants, school committee, community school committee or school directors, office, attendance officers and medical inspection ;

3. **Employ and pay teachers.** Said administrative units shall:

A. **Pay teachers in accordance with the minimum salary law;**

B. **Employ at least one teacher for each 30 elementary school pupils in average daily membership, except in the kindergarten where the ratio shall not exceed one teacher to 60 pupils and at least one teacher for each 25 high school pupils. The pupil-teacher ratio shall be determined by dividing the average daily membership of the school by the number of classroom teachers, excluding supervisors, principals, guidance directors and other nonteaching personnel. Any unit maintaining a school with a pupil-teacher ratio higher than that authorized by this section shall have its operational subsidy allocation for the next succeeding biennium reduced by 10%.**

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 20, § 3722, repealed and replaced. Section 3722 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 3722. Allowance

The foundation program allowance for each administrative unit shall be determined as follows:

The average of the 2 preceding years' adjusted resident pupils, April 1st census, educated by the unit shall be multiplied by the applicable dollar allowance in Table I below. The result will be the net foundation program. Pupils attending school on a part-time basis shall be counted as .2 of a pupil for each class period which they attend.

TABLE I

The per pupil allowance used in computing the foundation program shall be \$320. Thereafter, the per pupil allowance used in computing the foundation program shall be set by the State Board of Education by September 1st of the year preceding the convening of the Legislature. The figure set by the board shall be the average cost per pupil in kindergarten through grade 8 for all expenditures exclusive of debt retirement, capital outlay items, transportation and community services. The average elementary cost thus computed shall be increased or decreased by the average increase or decrease in elementary per pupil costs during the last 2-year period, and the rate shall be set at the nearest whole dollar amount that is a multiple of 5. The average resident pupils shall be adjusted as follows before multiplying by the fixed per pupil allowance. The 2 preceding years' resident pupils, April 1st census, in grades subprimary through 6 shall be multiplied by 1; the resident pupils in grades 7 and 8 shall be multiplied by 1.2. The adjusted resident pupils in grades subprimary through 8 shall be added together before multiplying by the per pupil allowance.

The average resident pupils in the units operating schools with fewer than 26 pupils shall be further adjusted as follows:

	Multiply adjusted average resident pupils by
If the unit enrolls from 1 to 10 pupils	1.50
11 to 15 pupils	1.40
16 to 20 pupils	1.33
21 to 25 pupils	1.27

The resident pupils in grades 9 through 12 shall be multiplied by 1.4 before multiplying by the per pupil allowance.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 20, § 3723, repealed and replaced. Section 3723 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 3723. State support of

On the basis of information available in the office of the commissioner on September 1st for the 2 years next preceding the biennial convening of the Legislature, as provided in returns of education statistics required by him, the commissioner shall apportion subsidies to the school administrative units of the State for each of the next 2 years according to the following plan.

From each unit's foundation program, as defined in sections 3721 and 3722, shall be subtracted the yield of 20 mills times the unit's state valuation, except that the basic aid to School Administrative Districts shall be computed as follows: The net foundation program of the district shall be distributed among the member municipalities of the district in the same ratio as the average resident pupils of the member municipalities bears to the total average number of resident pupils in the School Administrative District. From the foundation program thus distributed shall be subtracted the yield of 20 mills times the member municipality's state valuation provided that no member municipality shall be required to appropriate more than 80% of its foundation program. The aid thus computed for the member municipalities shall be added together and shall be paid to the School Administrative District. The result shall be the amount of state aid, on the foundation program that the unit is entitled to receive, provided that no unit shall receive less than 20% state aid on its foundation program. The valuation used shall be as determined by the Board of Equalization in the statement filed by it, as provided in Title 36, section 381. The computation for state aid for each unit shall be subject to correction in accordance with the final statement filed by the Board of Equalization on December 1st.

Pupil transportation, including the board of pupils and the purchase of school buses, shall be subsidized at the same percentage rate as the foundation program of the unit is subsidized. The amount thus determined shall be added to the foundation program allotment. In addition, School Administrative Districts shall receive the bonus as provided in section 3456.

The subsidy allocation thereafter shall be the same for each of the 2 years of the biennium.

Each administrative unit shall annually appropriate as its part of the foundation program no less than 20 mills times its state valuation or no less than 80% of the foundation program.

Any unit failing to comply with the above paragraph shall be ineligible for aid during the succeeding biennium.

The subsidy allocation for a newly formed School Administrative District shall be the sum of the amounts that the towns would have received plus a 10% bonus. During the succeeding bienniums the School Administrative District aid shall be computed in accordance with this section.

Any administrative unit in which the elementary operating expenditure or secondary operating expenditure, not including debt retirement, capital outlay items, transportation or community services, in any biennium exceeds the amount of the foundation program allowance in Table I multiplied by the adjusted resident pupils shall be entitled to an additional subsidy allocation on that part of its average operational expenditure which exceeds its foundation program amount, computed by multiplying the amount that the average elementary or secondary operational expenditure exceeds its foundation program amount by 4%. The result shall be added to the previously computed subsidy allocation.

The allowable aid earned by community school districts shall be paid directly to those units.

When a School Administrative District has taken over the operation of the public schools within its jurisdiction, the subsidy payment that would normally be paid to the subordinate administrative units which operated the public schools within the confines of the School Administrative District prior to the formation of said district shall be paid directly to the School Administrative District.

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act shall become effective July 1, 1968.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

This Act will require approximately \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969.