Description of the Formula

The Mississippi Accountability and Education Program Act (MAEP) was enacted in 1997. The MAEP is a foundation program that is based on the following formula:

1. \[((\text{ADA excluding self-contained special education}) \times \text{Base Student Cost}) + \text{At-Risk Component}) - \text{Local School District Contribution} + 8\% \text{ Guarantee} = \text{MAEP Formula Allocation}\]

2. The Base Student Cost Calculation utilizes data from schools that are considered to be successful and efficient. The State Board of Education uses current statistical data to identify successful schools; criteria for efficient schools include (a) number of teachers per 1,000 students, (b) administrator/Staff ratio, (c) operation and maintenance personnel, and (d) librarians and counselors per 1,000 students.

3. To provide stability in state and local appropriation and budgeting processes, the Base Student Cost is calculated every four years rather than each year, and an inflation component of 40\% of the Base Student Cost times the current CPI shall be used.

4. MAEP formula includes a provision that ensures that a district receives a formula allocation of at least what the district received in 2002 plus 8\%.

District-Based Components

Density/Sparsity of Small Schools
Does not apply.

Grade Level Differences
Does not apply.

Declining Enrollment or Growth
If a district has a consistent pattern of growth over the 3-year period prior to the appropriation, the average percent of growth will be added to the ADA for the district.
Capital Outlay and/or Debt Service
State provides $18 per year per pupil in ADA. Bonded indebtedness limit is 15% of assessed property valuation. Additional authority for Notes and Certificates of indebtedness is limited to the amount a three mill tax levy for 10 years will repay, including interest.

Transportation
Based on the ADA for transported pupils and a density formula and rate table, the result is the lower the density, the higher the rate. The rate table provides greater amounts per pupil to districts with fewer pupils per square mile.

Student-Based Components

Special Education
Funding is based on agency approval of the teacher units and certification and experience of the approved teacher. Five separate offices in the Department have a role in the application in program approval criteria and allocation of special education teacher units.

Compensatory Education
MAEP has an at-risk component that is based on 5% of the Base Student Cost times the number free lunch participants on October 31 of the previous year.

English Language Learner/Bilingual Education
Does not apply.

Gifted and Talented Education
Teacher units are added for each approved program gifted and talented students; the funding amount is based on the certification and experience of each teacher.

Revenue and Expenditures Information

State Mandates Restricting Revenue or Expenditure Increases
Local district contribution to MAEP is limited to 27% of the program costs including the At Risk Component.

Property Assessment Ratios Used/Legal Standards For Property Assessment
Not response provided.

Measure of Local Ability to Support Schools
Local district contribution to MAEP is limited to 27% of the program costs including the At-Risk Component.

School District Budget and Tax Rate Procedures/Sources of Local Revenue
The 149 districts are fiscally independent. In addition there are three agriculture high schools (AHS). Districts are limited to no more than a 7% 4% increase in the prior year’s ad valorem revenue without a referendum or reverse referendum. Above 4% to 7%, the referendum is by protest petition. Over 40%–7% must be by referendum with simple majority required for
approval. Districts may not levy more than 55 mills for operational purposes. Property tax revenues account for approximately 72% of local revenues for current operations. Other sources include tuition, 16th section revenue, interest on investments, school lunch, and student activity.

**State Support for Nonpublic Schools**
Aid is provided to distribute and freely loan books to non-public schools maintaining the same education standards as public schools, and to also demonstrate non-discriminatory practices.