

Notes regarding changes to Part C in the FY 24 Recommended Funding Level:

- 1) The total cost of education reflects a return to the statutory EPS (Essential Programs and Services) model after 2 years of adjustments designed to support financial stability for Maine Schools during the COVID disruptions which included:
 - a. Student-to-Teacher Ratio for the Elementary Level (Grades 1-5) changed from 17:1 to 16:1.
 - i. This ratio is now back to the current statutory level of 17:1 beginning with the FY 24 EPS calculation
 - b. Student-to-Teacher Ratio for the Middle Level (Grades 6-8) changed from 17:1 to 16:1.
 - i. This ratio is now back to the current statutory level of 17:1 beginning with the FY 24 EPS calculation
 - c. The additional weight for the Economically Disadvantaged Students was increased from .15 to .20; and the calculation to determine the percentage for each SAU was changed from only using the most recent resident and economically disadvantaged student counts to the highest of the 3 most recent years' economically disadvantaged percentages.
 - i. This weight is now back to the statutory level of .15 beginning with the FY 24 EPS calculation
 - ii. This percentage is now back to using the most recent year calculation beginning with the FY 24 EPS calculation per statute

- 2) The total cost of education reflects an increase to the Salary Matrix for Teachers, Guidance, Social Workers, and Librarians to a minimum of \$40,000 in accordance with Title 20-A §15677.

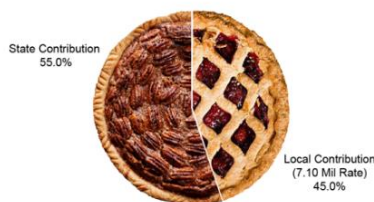
- 3) The total cost of education further reflects an increase to the staff benefits percentages to better reflect actual expenses in accordance with Title 20-A §15678 and §15679; while spending on staff benefits as a percentage of salaries have continued to increase since the enactment of the EPS funding act, until now, these have not changed from the original benefits rates set in 2005-06.

Staff Positions	Former Benefits Percentage	New Benefits Percentage
Teachers, Guidance, Social Workers, Librarians & Health	19%	26%
Education & Library Technicians	36%	40%
Clerical	29%	40%
School Administration (Principals, Assistant Principals)	14%	21%

- 4) Total cost of education increased by 3.37% from FY 23 to FY 24, as a result the increase to both the State Contribution at 55% and the Local Required Contribution at 45% was also 3.37%.

Total Cost of Education FY 23 EPS Calculation = \$2,462,294,676

Total Cost of Education (EPS Funding Formula)



FY 23 State Appropriation for Education = \$1,354,532,167
 FY 23 Local Required Contribution = \$1,107,762,509

Total Cost of Education FY 24 EPS Calculation = \$2,545,271,871

Total Cost of Education (EPS Funding Formula)



FY 24 State Appropriation for Education = \$1,400,174,513
 FY 24 Local Required Contribution = \$1,145,097,328