FY15 Chapter 70 Aid
Preliminary House 2 Proposal
January 22, 2014
Highlights from House 2

- FY15 Chapter 70 aid is $4.40B, a 2.3% increase from FY14.

- This year marks a big step forward in implementing the equity component of Chapter 70 for communities required to contribute more than their targets. Those communities will have the gap between their required and target local contributions reduced by half.

- All eligible regular education pre-kindergarten pupils now count in the foundation budget.

- All districts receive at least $25 per pupil in additional aid over the prior year.
Chapter 70 is the Commonwealth’s school funding statute

A district’s Chapter 70 aid is determined in three basic steps:

1. It defines and calculates a **foundation budget**, an adequate funding level for each district, given the specific grades, programs, and demographic characteristics of its students.

2. It then determines an equitable **local contribution**, how much of that “foundation budget” should be paid for by each city and town’s property tax, based upon the relative wealth of the community.

3. The remainder is funded by Chapter 70 (c70) **state aid**.

Local Contribution + State Aid = a district’s Net School Spending (NSS) requirement. This is the minimum amount that a district must spend to comply with state law.
Districts receive different levels of Chapter 70 aid, because their community’s ability to pay differs.
Key Factors in School Funding Formula

Foundation Budget
• Enrollment
• Wage Adjustment Factor
• Inflation

Local Contribution
• Property value
• Income
• Municipal Revenue Growth Factor

These six factors work together to determine a district’s c70 aid.
Foundation Budget
FY15 Foundation Rates per Pupil

Average Foundation Rate is $10,486 per pupil.

1/22/2014
70 percent of statewide foundation is instructional in nature.
Local Contribution
Establishing local ability to pay

• The foundation budget is a shared municipal-state responsibility.

• Each community has a different target local share, or ability to pay, based on its property values and residents’ incomes.

• Prior to this policy, required local contributions had become less linked to ability to pay. A process was established in 2007 to move each community from its 2006 baseline to its new target.
Determining each community’s target local share starts with the local share of statewide foundation.

Calculate *statewide* foundation budget.

Determine local share of *statewide* foundation.

*Statewide*, determine percentages that yield ½ from property and ½ from income.

Property and income percentages are applied uniformly across all *cities and towns* to determine the *combined effort yield* from property and income.

*This reflects the statewide target aid share. The state currently distributes more than this in Chapter 70 aid.*
Individual communities’ target local shares are based on local property values and income, and foundation budget.

- To determine local effort, first apply this year’s property percentage (0.3624%) to the town’s 2012 total equalized property valuation
- Then apply this year’s income percentage (1.5113%) to the town’s 2011 total residential income

\[
\text{Local Property Effort} + \text{Local Income Effort} = \text{Combined Effort Yield (CEY)}
\]

- Target Local Share = CEY/Foundation budget
  - Capped at 82.5% of foundation
  - In FY15, 131 of 351 communities are capped.
Getting Closer To the Target Contribution
Determining the Upcoming Year’s Local Contribution

Preliminary Contribution
- Increase last year’s required local contribution by the municipality’s Municipal Revenue Growth Factor (MRGF)
  - Calculated annually by the Department of Revenue
  - Quantifies the most recent annual percentage change in each community's local revenues, such as the annual increase in the Proposition 2½ levy limit, that should be available for schools

Required Contribution
- If the preliminary contribution is **above** the target, reduce by the effort reduction percent (50% in FY15).
- If the preliminary contribution is **below by less than 2.5%**, the preliminary contribution becomes the new requirement.
- If the preliminary contribution is **below by more than 7.5%**, an additional 2% is added to the preliminary contribution. For those **below by between 2.5 and 7.5%**, 1% is added.
Reaching the Targets Over Time

Local contribution and aid targets were first defined in FY07, with a projected five-year phase-in. Phase-in was slowed by the state revenue crisis.

- Chapter 70 (FY15) continues the transition towards the local contribution and aid targets.

- 279 communities with required excess effort are reduced by 50% of that excess, amounting to $154 million in lower required contributions.

- 72 communities have required contributions below their targets, and are moved closer by their MRGFs, plus:
  - an additional 1% if below by 2.5 to 7.5% (n=31), or
  - an additional 2% if below by more than 7.5% (n=16).
  - Additional contributions total $7.6 million.
Progress Toward Target Contributions

Chapter 70 Minimum Local Contributions
Amount Above and Below Targets

- FY07: excess effort before effort reduction
- FY08: net excess after effort reduction
- FY09: effort reduction
- FY10: shortfall below target before increment
- FY11: additional increments toward target
- FY12: net shortfall below target after increment

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Progress Toward Target Contributions

Target v. Required Contribution, FY2007

Target v. Reqd Contribution, FY2015

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Regional Allocation
Example: Berkley

The city or town’s required local contribution is allocated among the districts in which it is a member.
This is based upon the share of it’s total foundation budget.
Calculating Chapter 70 Aid

- Start with prior year’s aid
  - FY14 c70 (statewide: $4.3B)

- Add together the prior year’s aid and the required local contribution (Row 1 and 3). If the combined amount is minus than foundation budget:
  - **Foundation aid** provides additional funding for districts to spend at foundation levels (Row 4). 59 operating districts

- Calculate the district’s foundation aid with local effort fully reduced to target. Provide 35% of that amount if its larger than the foundation aid increase. 94 operating districts

- If it is greater than foundation budget:
  - **Chapter 70 aid** is held harmless at the prior year’s level.
  - District receives at least $25 per pupil in additional aid over FY14 (201 operating districts).
Progress Toward Target Aid Share

Chapter 70 Aid Amounts Above and Below Target

Dollars Above/Below Target Aid Share ($)

FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 PRELIM

aid above target aid below target

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Progress Toward Target Aid Share

Target v. C70 Aid, **FY2007**

- X-axis: Target Aid %
- Y-axis: Chapter 70 Aid %

Target v. C70 Aid, **FY2015**

- X-axis: Target Aid %
- Y-axis: Chapter 70 Aid %

1/22/2014
Net School Spending v. Actual NSS

**Net School Spending (NSS)**

- Chapter 70 Aid
- Required Local Contribution
- District’s NSS Requirement

- NSS requirement is legal funding obligation for each district.
  - Remains fully in effect and will be enforced
  - Aid penalties result from non-compliance

**“Actual” NSS**

- Computed each year from each district’s End of Year Financial Report
  - Includes operating expenditures
  - Includes municipal indirect costs such as insurance, maintenance, and administration
  - Excludes non-appropriated funds such as grants and revolving funds
  - Excludes capital spending

Net School Spending v. Actual NSS

1/22/2014
Most Districts Spend in Excess of Their Net School Spending Requirement

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Below 95%</th>
<th>95-99.5%</th>
<th>99.5%-100.5%</th>
<th>100.5%-105%</th>
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Number of Operating Districts
Chapter 70 Website
http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/
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