

New At-Risk Measure HB 22-1202



[HB 22-1202 At-risk Student Measure For School Finance](#)

- Created a new At-Risk Measure for the School Finance formula
- Established a working group to provide input on several topics

The at-risk measure working group consisted of school district superintendents, school district CFOs, school social workers, school principal, representatives from advocacy organizations, and state agency representatives.

[View the working group roster](#)

The working group's report was submitted to the General Assembly on January 30, 2023:

[Report of the At-Risk Measure for School Finance Working Group](#)



Free Lunch Eligible Students

- Direct Certified Students
 - SNAP
 - TANF
- Categorically Eligible Students
 - Homeless
 - Foster
 - Migrant
 - Head Start
 - Runaway
- Qualified through Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) Application or Family Economic Data Survey (FEDS) form

Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible Students (FRL Application or FEDS form)

New At-Risk Measure (per statute)



~~Free Lunch Eligible Students~~ Identified Student Percentage

- Direct Certified Students
 - SNAP
 - TANF
 - Medicaid
- Categorically Eligible Students
 - Homeless
 - Foster
 - Migrant
 - Head Start
 - Runaway

Note: Districts will still need to collect and process FRL applications for nutrition programs!

~~• Qualified through Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) Application or Family Economic Data Survey (FEDS) form~~

~~Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible Students (FRL Application or FEDS form)~~

Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status (SES Indicator)

New At-Risk Measure (per statute)



New At-Risk Measure

Identified Student
Percentage (ISP)

+

Neighborhood
Socioeconomic Status (SES)
Indicator

Identified Student Percentage

- ISP = Directly Certified Students + Categorically Eligible Students
 - **Directly Certified Students:** Students who are administratively linked to their household's participation in SNAP or TANF (typically, 130% FPL or less), or Migrant Education Program.
 - **Categorically Eligible Students:** Students who experience homelessness (lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence), participate in the Head Start program, or are determined to be a runaway, in foster care, or a migrant student.
- Eligible children may also be certified for free meals through their household's participation in Medicaid/CHIP+
- *This means that submission of a FRPL form will no longer make a student eligible for at-risk*

Recommendations for SES Components: (Working Group Recommendations)

The Socio-Economic Status (SES) is recommended to include the following data points from the American Community Survey (ACS):

- Share of those in the same residence as of last year
- Share of adults age 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or higher
- Share of children under 18 who are adopted, foster, or living with relatives that are not their biological parents
- Median household income
- Share of occupied housing units with more than 0.5 occupants per room
- Average ratio of income to rent/ownership costs
- Share of children age 5 to 17 who speak non-English language at home

Count Equalization

- At-risk count should be equal to at least the total number of students identified as eligible for FRPL in SY2022-23

Hold Harmless

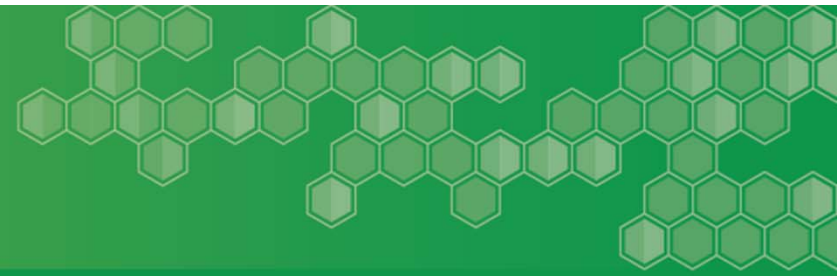
- Districts should not receive less At-Risk funding than they did in SY2022-23
- Hold harmless provision should be reconsidered after first year of implementation and every five years thereafter

Use of Quintiles for SES

- ACS data points should be averaged into an SES Index, which divides each Census block group into one of five socio-economic status quintiles

Implementation timeline

- The working group recommends waiting to implement the new At-Risk Measure until the 2024-25 school year.



- **At-Risk Measure Weighting**
 - 75 percent ISP, 25 percent SES Index - 8 votes
 - 60 percent ISP, 40 percent SES Index - 1.5 votes
 - 50 percent ISP, 50 percent SES Index - 9.5 votes
- **Weight Among Quintiles**
 - (Low) 1, 0.8, 0.6, 0.4, 0.2 (High) – Even weight - 5 votes
 - (Low) 1, 0.9, 0.7, 0.5, 0.3 (High) – Concentrated weight - 14 votes
 - (Low) 1, 0.9, 0.8, 0.6, 0.2 (High) – Concentrated weight - 1 vote



- Use of American Community Survey (ACS) in rural communities
 - ACS data may not fully represent the socioeconomic conditions of very small districts
- Large swings in ISP versus Free and Reduced Lunch percentages
 - ISP percentages are markedly different from their free and reduced lunch percentages as measured by deciles for ~20 districts

Implementation Timeline Considerations

A number of factors support such a delay, including:

- Several aspects of the new At-Risk measure are undetermined and require legislative action.
- Medicaid count estimates will not be available until July 2023.
- Development of a system for districts to report actual census block information will require time.
- Districts will not have accurate forecasts for At-Risk funding for the FY 2023-24.
- Student data privacy implications of using the American Community Survey tool are currently unknown.
- Use of American Community Survey (ACS) in rural communities
- Large swings in ISP versus Free and Reduced Lunch percentages for ~20 districts



- Identified Student Percentage - FY 2023-24
 - Continue collecting Free and Reduced Price Lunch data
 - Add a Free Lunch Eligibility Identification Field
- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, House Bill 22-1202 requires districts to indicate how a student's free lunch eligibility was documented.

Student October Data Collection Implications

0	Not Identified as Free Lunch Eligible
1	Direct Certification (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF FDPIR)- including extension to other household members
2	Other Source Categorical (Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, Foster, Head Start documented participation)- district lists, student specific eligibility
3	Application (Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, Family Economic Data Survey Form, or Combination form)