Trends in Education: State funding mechanisms for English language learners

As demographics of the nation’s schools continue to shift, state-level policy surrounding English language learners (ELLs) becomes increasingly important. Information regarding the various methods of funding of ELL students can be confusing and difficult to locate.

State funding mechanisms for English language learners, a new report from the Education Commission of the States, provides a clear and detailed description of the ways states finance ELLs and allows policymakers to evaluate their own funding models against those from other states.

"This is a pressing issue, and states are largely coming up empty as they search for more information on how to fund ELLs," said Maria Millard, an ECS policy analyst and author of the report. "This new report provides comprehensive ELL funding information and will help policymakers determine what changes are needed to better support ELL students in their states."

In this report, you will find:

- A description of the three ELL funding mechanisms.
- A table showing each state’s ELL funding mechanism.
- A table showing the differences in weights, dollar amounts and teacher allocation across the states.

Other ECS resources on ELLs:

- A Survey of State ELL/ESL Funding Systems, Education Commission of the States, Mike Griffith and John Hancock, March 2006.
- ECS Funding Formula Issue Site
- ECS ELL/State Bilingual Policy Database
- ECS ELL/Bilingual Issue Site

For questions or more information, contact ECS at (303) 299.3609 or askinner@ecs.org.

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