

**Report of the
Census-Based Funding Advisory Group
DRAFT OUTLINE - For Discussion**

January 6, 2020

- I. Background
 - A. Act 173 of 2018: An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to students who require additional support.
 - B. Summary of the law and charge of the Group
 - C. Membership: The Act defines the membership of the Advisory Group as follows:
 - D. As of the writing of this report, the Advisory Group has convened 14 times (2018: September 14, October 12, December 3; 2019: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, July 24, September 16, October 7, November 4, December 11; 2020: January 6)
- II. Initial report to the legislature (organized around requirements in Act)
 - A. Introduction: (summary of work to date)
 - B. Advise the SBE on proposed rules
 1. Agency of Education Draft Rules (1300 Series)
 - a) Core issues:
 - (1) Definition of Special Education
 - (2) Conflation of funding constructs (use of Federal funds, use of State funds, documentation of Maintenance of Effort)
 - (3) Cost documentation guidance
 - b) FEG Report
 - c) Revised draft rules (as presented to SBE 12/18/19)
 2. Areas of rule making identified for additional discussion:
 - a) Special education funding for independent schools
 - b) MTSS implementation
 - C. Advise AOE and supervisory unions on implementation
 - 1.
 - D. Recommendations to General Assembly for necessary Statutory changes, including “any statutory changes necessary to align special education funding for approved independent schools with the census grant funding model for public schools as envisioned in the amendments to 16 V.S.A. chapter 101 in Sec. 5 of this act.”
 1. **Clarification of revised implementation timeline, including adjustment of Rules timeline**
 2. **Adjustments to the Uniform Base Amount/Census Grant Calculation** (based on weighting study)
 3. **Hold on additional legislation**: The Group agreed that Act 173 represents landmark legislation for schools, and passage of additional education legislation will put implementation in jeopardy - initiative fatigue
 4. **Continued role of the census-based funding advisory group**:
- III. Next Steps