

District Adequacy and Spending Plans Activity

This activity will help individuals learn more about funding adequacy in their district and investigate how the district is planning to spend the new tier funding recently received through EBF.

How well funded is your district?

Each district in Illinois is assigned an adequacy target, which represents how much in funding that district needs in order to be considered fully funded. A district's percentage adequacy represents how close or far they are from fully funding. To find your district's percentage of funding adequacy:

- Head to the [Funding Illinois Future Equity Dashboard](#)
- Select 'District Lookup'
- Search and select your district
- In the top left corner, you will see your district's percentage adequacy today, and in FY18 (before EBF)

My district is at _____% of full funding. Before EBF, it was at _____% of full funding.

How is your district spending new EBF funds in the 2023-2024 school year?

Local education agencies (LEAs) funded through the Evidence-Based Funding formula (EBF) are required annually to submit a 'spending plan' outlining how they plan to allocate new funds received through the EBF formula in a given school year. The plans are integrated into each LEA's annual budget. To find your district's spending plan:

- Go to the ISBE [Cerberus FTP Server](#). Click the link, enter "finread" in the username, and then click "Sign-in". This application **does not** require a password.
- Navigate to 'Budgets' > '2024' > 'School Districts' and then search for your district by name. Click the file to download. It will open in Microsoft Excel.
- In the budget document, navigate to the 'EBF Spending Plan' tab. This tab is divided into three sections.
 - Part I covers high level goals and strategy
 - Part II covers detailed plans for spending of new EBF funds
 - Part III outlines planned spending on populations with required set-asides including English Learners and students with disabilities
- In Part I of the spending plans, LEAs are asked to share the strategic goals and priorities that motivate spending. Navigate to Part I questions 1 and 2.

My district is working towards the following goals: _____, _____, and _____.

- Now, find how much new funding your district has received through EBF in the 2023-2024 school year. Navigate to 'Part II' section (1) of the document, and find the cell labeled 'FY 2024 Tier Funding' (Row 30, Column G)

My district received \$_____ in new Tier Funding through EBF in FY24.

- Next, look at how your district is planning to spend these **new** funds on in Part II section (5) of the document, starting at row 48. This table shows of all the cost factors that make up a district's adequacy target (Core Teachers, Gifted, etc.). Note that there is a separate section that asks how old funds (Base Funding Minimum) will be allocated.
 - The numbers in column G show how much of the new EBF funding your district received in the 2023-2024 school year will be allocated across each of the cost factors.

My district is spending new EBF funds on the following cost factors: _____, _____, and _____.

- **(Optional)** LEAs are required to spend a certain proportion of funds on students from low-income households, English Learners, and students with IEPs, outlined in 'Part III' section (1) of the spending plan.
 - There are also specific cost factors that are factored into each district's adequacy target based on the total enrollment of each student population.
 - Sections (2), (3), and (4) require districts to select which of these cost factors they are spending the allocated funds on. Pick one student group and look at the spending information.

My district is spending _____ on _____ students in the 2023-2024 school year. These funds are allocated towards the following cost factors: _____, _____, and _____.

Want to learn more?

For a deeper dive into the spending plans and additional prompts and guiding questions for users, see [ISBE's 2024 Spending Plans Report](#).