

## EA Funding Change

As you know, for many years you have requested, and the Office of State Aid has provided, a spreadsheet containing an "EA rate" for each district. The rate was based on Formula Operating Aid per pupil, increased by weightings that in the past were used in pupil counts for Operating Aid; e.g., the .25 secondary weighting and the PEP%. The resulting amount was divided by 1000 to determine an hourly rate.

The laws of 2007 repealed Operating Aid and enacted Foundation Aid. As such, we no longer calculate formula Operating Aid per pupil, and the pupil counts used to calculate Foundation Aid do not incorporate the PEP% or the secondary 7-12 weighting that was used in the EA rate calculation we provided in the past. Therefore, beginning this year, there is no statutory basis for the calculation and we can no longer provide the spreadsheet.

The intent of the EA rate calculation appears to have been to determine an hourly aid amount per pupil (not cost per pupil) associated with students under 21 (EPE-ineligible) in equivalent attendance programs. Some BOCES evidently used this rate (multiplied by EA contact hours) to charge component districts that participate in BOCES run equivalent attendance programs.

While it is not clear to me why a BOCES would use this "EA rate" method to charge components, it is my understanding from conversations in the field that most BOCES no longer use it. If this is the case, I have to assume that most BOCES use the standard method of determining the component charge; i.e., the BOCES expense, less appropriate deductions, is allocated across the participating components in proportion to their level of participation.

For your information, item #100 on the 2007-08 General Formula Aid Output Report displays "Foundation Aid per pupil." This item appears within the calculation of a different aid formula because it is required for that aid, but it represents the total amount of Foundation Aid that each district will receive in 2007-08 after caps and save harmless provisions are applied, divided by the pupil count used to generate the aid. To view this amount for any district, you (or anyone) can go to our homepage (<http://stateaid.nysed.gov>), type in a district name or code on the left, click on "2007-08 General Formula Aid Output Report" and scroll down to item #100. Here is a link to Albany's report:  
<http://www.nysed.gov/stateaid/dist/FM07/GEN/010100.HTML>

Thank you for your patience while we researched and resolved this issue. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.