

Questions to Ask Before Recommending Changes to Educational System

General Questions

1. Does evidence-based research, such as that in the adequacy study, provide a rationale for the change?
2. Is the change needed to better support the goal of providing to Arkansas students an equal opportunity for an adequate education, rather than being based on the availability of funding?
3. Will the change result in advancing the goal of providing to Arkansas students an equal opportunity for an adequate education, as defined by General Assembly?

Funding changes

If the General Assembly considers changing the funding structure of the educational system, such as removing an item from the matrix, changing the manner in which an item is funded, or changing the amount of funding for an item, the General Assembly should ask the following questions:

1. Does evidence-based research, such as that in the adequacy study, provide a rationale for the change?
2. Is the change based on need and the amount of funds necessary to provide an adequate educational system and not based on the availability of funds?

Adequacy

3. After the change, will the funding structure result in the provision of an adequate education, as defined by the General Assembly, for all students?

a. If the change results in some school districts receiving more funding on a certain category than the school districts received before the change, will the amount of funding the school district receives be sufficient to provide an adequate education?

b. If the change results in some school districts receiving less funding on a certain category than the school districts received before the change, will the amount of funding the school district receives still be sufficient to provide an adequate education?

Equity

4. After the change, will the funding structure result in the provision of an equitable expenditure of funds that results in an equal opportunity to receive an adequate education?

a. If the change results in some school districts receiving more funding on a certain category than the school districts received before the change, is it necessary for those school districts to expend more funding on the category in order to achieve a similar outcome as other school districts?

b. If the change results in some school districts receiving less funding on a certain category than the school districts received before the change, can those school districts achieve a similar outcome as other school districts by expending less funds on that category?