

Student Weights

What do weights do?

1. Using student weights accounts for additional costs associated with specific categories of students.
2. Vermont bases homestead property tax rates on education spending per pupil.
3. If a district has a high percentage of high-cost students, it's spending per pupil would be high, increasing its homestead tax rate.
4. But the pupil count Vermont uses for per pupil spending are equalized pupils, which are weighted pupils.
5. Equalized pupils account for those higher costs by increasing the pupil count, thereby decreasing the cost per pupil.
6. This means per pupil spending between districts is equalized in terms of those specific student categories.

Student Weights

How are equalized pupils calculated?

1. The long-term average daily membership (LT ADM) is the base.
 - a. The LT ADM is a two-year ADM average, plus state-placed student counts from the prior year.
 - b. The LT ADM is the count the State has in a given year.
2. Weights for each category are applied to the LT ADM for each district.
3. The State now has a higher count than the LT ADM.
4. The weighted LT ADM for each district is multiplied by an equalization ratio.
 - a. The equalization ratio is the ratio of the LT ADM to the weighted total.
 - b. The total equalized pupil count for the State is equal to the LT ADM.
 - c. Each district's count has been adjusted by its ratio of the various student category weights as compared to the State as a whole – i.e., the equalization ratio.
 - d. If a district had a higher percentage of students in the categories than the State, its equalized pupil count is higher than its LT ADM.
5. Weights work in concert with one another and can mask what is happening.

How weights can affect one another

Isolating the effect of a single weight.

Scenario 1 - only secondary grade weight

Eq Ratio: $60 \div 66.00 = 0.909$

	K-6	7-12	ADM tot	K-6	7-12	Sparsity	Wght	Wghtd ADM	District Ratio	Eq Ratio	EqPup
				0.0	0.2	Eligible	0.0				
District 1	5	15	20	-	3.0	no	-	23.0	0.870	0.909	20.9
District 2	10	10	20	-	2.0	yes	-	22.0	0.909	0.909	20.0
District 3	15	5	20	-	1.0	yes	-	21.0	0.952	0.909	19.1
State			60					66.0	0.909		60.0

How weights can affect one another

Impact of a second weight on results from a single weight.

Scenario 2 - secondary weight plus a sparsity weight

Eq Ratio: $60 \div 70.00 = 0.857$

	K-6	7-12	ADM tot	K-6	7-12	Sparsity Wght		Wghtd ADM	District Ratio	Eq Ratio	EqPup
				0.0	0.2	Eligible	0.1				
District 1	5	15	20	-	3.0	no	-	23.0	0.870	0.857	19.7
District 2	10	10	20	-	2.0	yes	2.0	24.0	0.833	0.857	20.6
District 3	15	5	20	-	1.0	yes	2.0	23.0	0.870	0.857	19.7
State			60					70.0	0.857		60.0

Tax rate calculation

Example 1

	FY2022
1. Expenditures	18,900,000
2. <u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	- <u>5,210,000</u>
3. Education Spending	13,690,000
4. <u>Equalized Pupils</u>	÷ <u>780.00</u>
5. Ed Spend / EqPup	17,551
6. <u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷ <u>11,317</u>
7. Equalized Homestead Rate	1.551
8. <u>CLA</u>	÷ <u>93.00%</u>
9. Actual Homestead Rate	1.668

Tax rate calculation

Example 1

Rate calculation using LT ADM versus equalized pupils.

	FY2022			FY2022
1. Expenditures	18,900,000	Expenditures		18,900,000
2. <u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	- 5,210,000	<u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	-	5,210,000
3. Education Spending	13,690,000	Education Spending		13,690,000
4. Equalized Pupils	÷ 780.00	LT ADM	÷	794.00
5. Ed Spend / EqPup	17,551	Ed Spend / EqPup		17,242
6. <u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷ 11,317	<u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷	11,317
7. Equalized Homestead Rate	1.551	Equalized Homestead Rate		1.524
8. <u>CLA</u>	÷ 93.00%	<u>CLA</u>	÷	93.00%
9. Actual Homestead Rate	1.668	Actual Homestead Rate		1.639

Tax rate calculation

Example 2

		FY2022
10. Expenditures		17,200,000
11. <u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	-	<u>4,790,000</u>
12. Education Spending		12,410,000
13. <u>Equalized Pupils</u>	÷	<u>690.00</u>
14. Ed Spend / EqPup		17,986
15. <u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷	<u>11,317</u>
16. Equalized Homestead Rate		1.589
17. <u>CLA</u>	÷	<u>93.00%</u>
18. Actual Homestead Rate		1.709

Tax rate calculation

Example 2

Rate calculation using LT ADM versus equalized pupils.

	FY2022		FY2022
10. Expenditures	17,200,000	Expenditures	17,200,000
11. <u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	- <u>4,790,000</u>	<u>Offsetting Revenues</u>	- <u>4,790,000</u>
12. Education Spending	12,410,000	Education Spending	12,410,000
13. <u>Equalized Pupils</u>	÷ <u>690.00</u>	<u>LT ADM</u>	÷ <u>680.00</u>
14. Ed Spend / EqPup	17,986	Ed Spend / EqPup	18,250
15. <u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷ <u>11,317</u>	<u>Property yield per \$1.00 rate</u>	÷ <u>11,317</u>
16. Equalized Homestead Rate	<u>1.589</u>	Equalized Homestead Rate	<u>1.613</u>
17. <u>CLA</u>	÷ <u>93.00%</u>	<u>CLA</u>	÷ <u>93.00%</u>
18. Actual Homestead Rate	1.709	Actual Homestead Rate	1.734