

Differentiated Funding Formula Project Executive Summary

UNUM Fellow Reid Goldstein

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E Pluribus UNUM

In October 2020, I was selected as a member of the inaugural cohort of [E Pluribus UNUM Fellows](#). The cohort is composed of 14 elected officials throughout the South. Founded by former New Orleans [Mayor Mitch Landrieu](#) in 2018, E Pluribus Unum (EPU) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to build a more equitable and inclusive South, uprooting the barriers that have long divided the region by race and class. EPU's focus is on cultivating and empowering courageous leaders who are focused on racial equity, changing the divisive narratives that perpetuate systemic and interpersonal racism, and championing transformative policy change. More information is found [here](#).

APS equitable budgeting project

As a School Board member, my project is focused on addressing inequities found in Arlington Public Schools. Currently schools in Arlington are stratified by race, class, and geography. While each school has its own budget, it is unclear if budgeting methods using planning factors are serving student need. There is an overall need for budget transparency and budgeting for equity in APS.

I am in the process of creating a project plan that develops a new, equitable framework for the school division budgeting process to drive improved outcomes for students. Arron Gregory, APS Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, and Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services are assisting me in the project.

My plan is to create a formula that transparently allocates budget resources to schools based on their students' needs. In a nutshell, my idea is to establish a school's budget with a baseline amount of funding for each student in that school, and then add an additional amount for every student with disabilities, students who are economically disadvantaged, and/or students who are English Learners.

Project Design

I have begun to identify the stakeholders to help me create a project design. As my algorithm comes to fruition, I will circle back with the initial group of stakeholders to understand specific impacts and further fine tune it.

I appreciate you taking time to give me your thoughts on my project. Some questions to think about are:

- What does equitable budgeting mean to you? What does success look like?
- What elements should a proposed differentiated funding formula contain?
- How will a differentiated funding formula affect your work/goals?