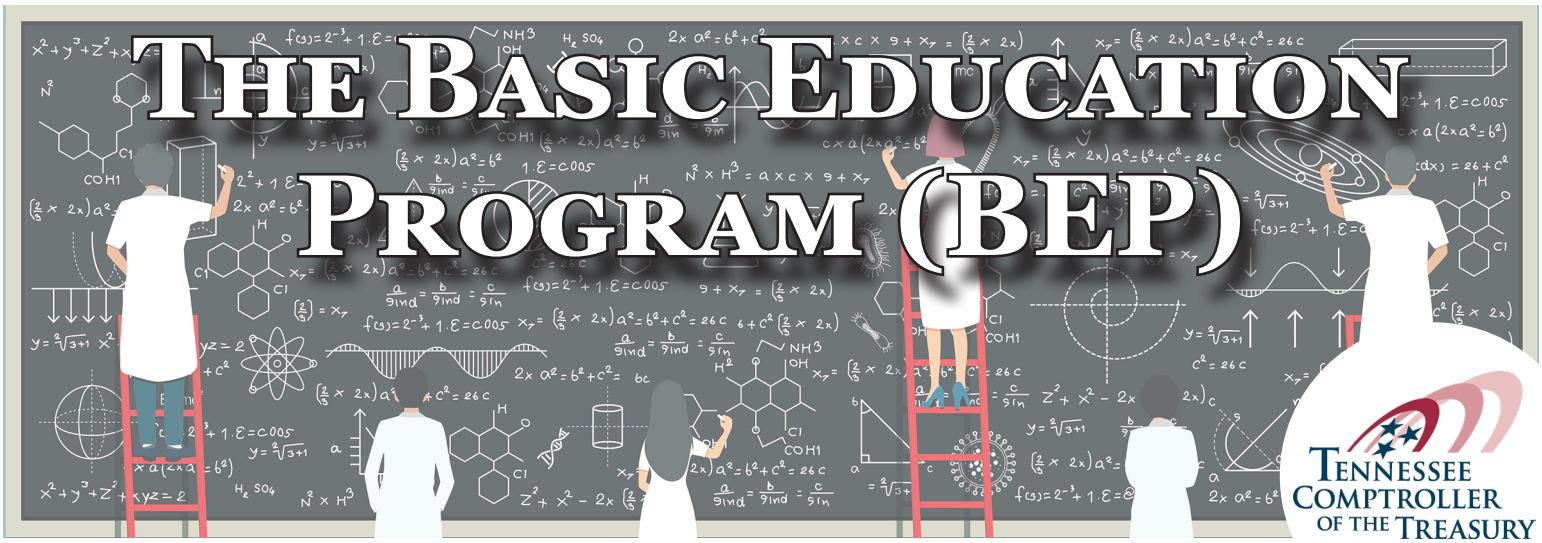
The Basic Education Program (BEP)



Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

September 2018

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The Basic Education Program, or BEP, is Tennessee's funding formula for K-12 education. This year, it generated almost $7.2 billion: over $4.7 billion in state funding, with a required local match of nearly $2.5 billion. To make sure that school districts are receiving the correct amount of funding, the Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has checked the formula for the third consecutive year.

Good news!

OREA didn't find many errors, and the ones the office did identify were all very minor. All in all, the corrections amounted to a net underallocation of $111,000 in state funding. Underallocations to 55 school districts totaled $242,000, and overallocations to 26 districts totaled $131,000. The remaining 61 districts had no change in funding.

Out of a calculation of over $4.7 billion, a discrepancy of $111,000 is exceedingly small. The Department of Education will adjust its payments to districts beginning in January.

In other news: Response to Intervention (RTI)

This year's BEP formula includes a new component for Response to Intervention (RTI) staff. Under RTI, classroom teachers, special education staff, and specialists identify and evaluate students who are struggling, then develop plans for additional support.

The new BEP component generates one position for every 2,750 students, with a minimum of one position per district. The budget included an additional $13.3 million for the component, and in the first year of implementation, the formula generated approximately 380 RTI positions for all districts across the state.

For more information on the BEP, see OREA's comprehensive policy portal at **www.comptroller.tn.gov/orea/bep**.

142
districts in the BEP

968,012
statewide ADM

6,904
average district ADM

$5,532
average state per-pupil BEP funding

ADM stands for Average Daily Membership, and is a weighted average of student enrollment counts at various times during the school year.