

Fiscal Policy Work Group – Commission to Study School Funding

DRAFT Principles for Discussion

10/29/20

Principles:

- The State Property Tax is a state tax and should be remitted to the state treasury
 - Tax dollars should be collected locally to avoid complications and duplicative collection processes
- Taxpayer equity targeted to homeowners and renters through a low- and moderate-income property tax relief program with updated limits to income and home value and satisfactorily funded by the state. Introduction of a property tax referral program managed by the state for 55+ residents with limited cash flow.
- State share of education funding driven by consideration for student equity
- Student equity can be achieved with a first-last dollar funding of the cost of an adequate education
- Student equity can be achieved with targeted funding of the cost of an adequate education, based on the municipal equalized valuation per pupil, provided the local school district will raise and appropriate the additional funds necessary through a local mandatory minimum.
 - Incentives to enforce local mandatory minimum? (Massachusetts)
- Local taxes raised above the estimated cost results in a contribution to the state's education trust fund (Vermont)
- Changes should be phased-in, with an emphasis on student equity and targeted tax relief