

WHAT IS PROPORTIONAL(EQUITABLE) SHARE?

Each year, Westwood applies and receives federal funds in the form of the 262 (early childhood) and 240 (Special Education Entitlement IDEA) Grants. While most of these resources fund and support in-district programming, because the money is federal, the district is required to calculate what is referred to as “Proportional/Equitable” Share for each year’s grant allotment and determine how to support accredited schools in Westwood with some of these resources.

Prop Share (Or often called Equitable Share) is a percentile calculate based on four components:

1. The number of students eligible for special education who reside in Westwood (regardless of where they attend school).
2. Total number of students eligible for special education who reside and attend Westwood Public Schools (or a 766 approved special education schools at Westwood’s expense)
3. The total number of students eligible for special education who attend private school in Westwood’s geographic region AND live in Westwood (*Private schools include: ECC certified preschools, accredited private schools, Montessori programs, and students who have an active Home School Program*)
4. The total number of students who are eligible for special education who attend private school in Westwood’s geographic region, AND live in another community in Massachusetts.

Annually, on or around October 1, Westwood will conduct a CHILD COUNT to gain these numbers from your institution. These numbers are then used for each year’s subsequent year’s equitable share allocation.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION

Throughout the year, Westwood staff meet with heads of schools and their representatives from the Westwood private school community (including prep schools, accredited early childhood programs, religious affiliated programs, homeschooling and other private school programs such as Montessori) to help identify what their needs are in regards to enrolled special education students.

This include asking each school for the following information:

1. Count of eligible students who are Westwood residents enrolled in their program.
2. Count of eligible students who are non-Westwood residents enrolled in their program.
3. What the school representatives feel are their overarching “needs” based on the IEPS of eligible students.
4. Issues related to Child Find and special education assessment and eligibility.
5. To address any questions related to how Equitable Share resources have been distributed/utilized.
6. Needs Assessment information about the kinds of needs their students are presenting with and or areas of Staff related PD or transportation needs that may be impacting student access to supports.

This information from each school is collected to help Westwood determine how resources will be delegated annually.

GROUP ENTITLEMENT VS INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENT

Westwood will use the information obtained through the Needs Assessment and Meaningful Consultations to decide how Prop/Equitable Share resources will be utilized for the school year. Unlike an IEP, which is Individual Entitlement, Prop/Equitable Share services are Group Entitlement. This affords the district flexibility to distribute resources associated with the information collected during the needs assessment. This process allows Westwood the opportunity to annually revisit needs and adjust how support is provided.

For students supported via Prop/Equitable Share services, a Service Plan is written with the staff and family to outline the kinds of support and services that a student will receive.

Resources are based on the Needs Assessment related to the provision of special education services, transportation, staff PD and consultation. Resources cannot be used to support private school tuition.

PARTICIPATION

Are you wondering if you should participate in this program?

If your school is accredited and you enroll Westwood resident or Non-Westwood resident students who have IEPs, then you should request a Needs Assessment Meeting to receive ongoing Meaningful Consultation with Westwood to see if and how these resources may benefit your students. Consultations occur 3 to 4 times a year.

You can request a meeting, by contacting the Office of Student Services:

smaselli@westwood.k12.ma.us

Director of Student Services

Westwood Public Schools

781 326-7500 x 1345 (p)

If you have resident and non-resident students who are eligible for special education and wish to OPT OUT of this program, you can do so by emailing, writing or calling:

smaselli@westwood.k12.ma.us

Director of Student Services

Westwood Public Schools

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Please note that if your program is eligible for these supports, we must receive your opt out, or Westwood will inform DESE you have declined to participate.

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The Westwood Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Westwood Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors.