

Figure K12-03

Proposition 98 Test Calculations

Test 1—Percent of General Fund Revenues

Test 1 is based on a percentage or share of General Fund tax revenues. Historically, school districts and community colleges (K-14) received approximately 40 percent in the 1986-87 fiscal year. As a result of the recent shifts in property taxes between K-14 schools and cities, counties, and special districts, the current rate is approximately 41 percent.

Test 2—Adjustments Based on Statewide Income

Test 2 is operative in years with normal to strong General Fund revenue growth. This calculation requires that school districts and community colleges receive at least the same amount of combined state aid and local tax dollars as they received in the prior year; adjusted for enrollment growth and growth in per capita personal income.

Test 3—Adjustment Based on Available Revenues

Test 3 is utilized in low revenue years when General Fund revenues decline or grow slowly. During such years, the funding guarantee is adjusted according to available resources. A low revenue year is defined as one in which General Fund revenue growth per capita lags behind per capita personal income growth more than one-half percentage point. Test 3 was designed so that education is treated no worse in low revenue years than other segments of the state budget.

In years following a Test 3 funding level, the state is required to provide funding to restore what was not allocated the previous year. This is often referred to as a maintenance factor.