

## Overview of the 1986 Education Enhancement Act

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### Issue

Provide an overview of the state's Education Enhancement Act of 1986 (EEA) ([PA 86-1, May Special Session](#)), including how the law was later merged into a new larger education financing program, the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant in 1989.

### Education Enhancement Act

The EEA was designed to increase public school teacher salaries across the state. It established three related incentive grants designed to encourage school districts to raise classroom teacher salaries over a three-year period.

Under one grant, the state paid the full cost of raising minimum teacher salaries to at least \$20,000 a year by the 1988-89 school year. Certain towns with salaries less than \$18,000 a year received a bonus grant if they met the target salary in two years.

The EEA also made state money available to raise the salaries of other teachers. The amounts were determined by comparing the school district's current salary schedule to a state model. The difference between the two amounts, adjusted for local wealth, became the grant. These grant amounts, in most cases, had to be passed along to the teachers as part of their salaries. The act also created a general education aid grant that did not have to specifically be spent on teacher salaries. But among other eligibility criteria, school districts had to participate in the minimum salary program or meet the minimum salary target set in the law. This way, even the general education grant was essentially tied to teacher salaries.

To be eligible for the above grants, most districts had to reopen teacher contract negotiations on minimum salaries or on all salaries.

The EEA also included provisions on teacher evaluation, grants for regional educational service centers, teacher certification standards, an alternate route to teacher certification, the school breakfast program, and other topics. For more details, see the public act summary [here](#).

## **Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula**

The state's school funding formula, called the ECS formula, was enacted in 1988 to take effect July 1, 1989 (PA 88-358). It replaced both the EEA and the prior funding formula known as the Guaranteed Tax Base (GTB). The primary elements of the ECS formula are the number of students (with weighting added for high need students), town wealth (measured by property and income wealth by town), and the state foundation (the level of spending the formula is intended to help a town reach). For more details see the public act summary [here](#).

When the ECS formula was enacted, the EEA had been in place for three years and it generally helped raise teacher salaries throughout the state.

The statutes for the teacher salary grants were made obsolete by PA 88-358 and ultimately repealed by [PA 96-244](#), §§ 62 & 63.

JM:kc