

Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force Recommendations Bullet List

Includes Items added during the Task Force Meeting on August 2, 2007

- 1) Charter school issues
 - a) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
- 2) Correspondence school issues
 - a) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
- 3) District Cost Factor issues
 - a) 50% ISER implementation in statute for FY09
 - b) Phase in remaining 50% over four subsequent years
 - c) Mechanism to assure cost factors are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis
 - i) "Blue Ribbon Commission" to develop durable and dynamic (updateable) model
 - (1) (Details of commission structure and schedule to be determined)
 - (2) Consider direct reimbursement methods for energy costs
- 4) Special Needs 20% block grant issues
 - a) No change recommended in this report
 - b) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
 - i) Consider categorical funding for voc-tech programs
- 5) Intensive Needs Student issues
 - a) 9 x BSA for FY09 with annual increases over next two years to 11 and 13
 - i) No extraordinary relief provisions
- 6) Required Local Effort issues
 - a) No change recommended (retain 4 mil with taxpayer relief limiting valuations to 50% of post 1999 increases; REAA exemption)
 - b) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
 - i) Consider alternatives to tax payer relief mechanism
 - (1) General revenue sharing alternative?
 - (2) Limit look back period for valuation changes?
 - ii) Consider long-term consequences of mechanism
- 7) Declining enrollment issues
 - a) "Step-down" mechanism to phase in recognition of declining enrollment
 - i) Review statutory proposal to be provided by DEED
 - (1) Beware of unintended consequences

- 8) Pupil transportation issues
 - a) Review and re-calibrate contractual amounts based on FY07 audited costs with recognition of inflationary adjustment in newly negotiated district contracts

- 9) Moore et al v. State of Alaska issues
 - a) Acknowledge the court Decision and Order and constitutional legislative responsibility
 - b) Recognize reliance upon authority currently delegated to DEED to continue and conclude the legal process
 - c) Legislature evaluates appropriate action in the 2008 session based on facts available at that time

- 10) Other issues
 - a) Early / forward funding
 - i) Recommend stand-alone K-12 public education appropriation bill by 60th legislative day
 - ii) Endorse continued setting aside of "surplus" revenues in Public Education Fund
 - iii) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
 - (1) Consider solutions to practical problems arising from incompatible state and school district budget cycles
 - (a) Consider multiple year BSA determinations

 - b) Grants (SIGS/LOGS/Quality schools)
 - i) No change recommended to current Quality Schools component of formula
 - ii) Recommend basing school funding on a formula that works without other special grants such as SIGS and LOGS
 - iii) Refer to long-term agenda for further consideration
 - (1) Request DEED to prepare proposal for new statutory program of "innovative" or "best practices" grants based on application and awarded on need and merit

 - c) Teacher preparation
 - i) Require University of Alaska to submit an annual report to the legislature documenting their efforts to attract, train and retain qualified public education teachers

 - d) Voluntary Pre-K program
 - i) Refer to long-range agenda for further consideration
 - (1) Do not prejudice recommendation for or against Pre-K programs

- e) Military Youth Academy funding
 - i) Legislature to address program funding formula
 - (1) Revise formula to make more relevant to today's base funding levels

 - f) Forest Receipts Reduction issue
 - i) Consider issue at next meeting - presentation by Sen. Stedman

 - g) Consequences of declining state revenue on education funding levels
 - i) Identify issue of achieving and sustaining proposed education funding levels in light of economic reality of declining oil production
 - (1) Recognize dilemma of reducing public services or identifying alternative revenue mechanisms
- 11) Long-term issues (where do we go from here?)
- i) Recommend the legislature create separate Education standing committees in the House and Senate, apart from Health and Social Services to address issues referred to long-term agenda
 - ii) Recommend the legislature create a public/legislative commission specifically limited to developing a new district cost factor model and present recommendations on that subject to the legislature
 - (1) Coordinate with recommendations on District Cost Factors
- 12) Special Session call
- a) Recommend that a special session on education funding is not necessary at this time

Additional recommendations from the Task Force meeting on August 2, 2007:

- 13) PERS/TRS issue
- a) Acknowledge that the recommendations adopted were built upon the assumption that Senate Bill 125 passes as it currently exists
- 14) Base Student Allocation
- a) Increase of \$100 for the BSA for each of the next three fiscal years