

Details of Joint Finance Committee education budget provisions May 20, 2015

GENERAL SCHOOL AIDS & REVENUE LIMITS

[Republican Budget Motion](#)

General School Aids and Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment

- Provide \$108 M in 16-17 for general school aids

Integration Aid/Chapter 220 Program

- Phase out the Chapter 220 program, but allow K-8 pupils to continue into their related UHS district and allow pupils to participate in the 2015-16 school year

School Levy Tax Credit

- Set the credit distribution at \$853 M in 2016-17 and thereafter

CATEGORICAL AIDS

Per Pupil Aid

- Provide \$126.8 M in 2016-17 for per pupil aid
- Provide an additional \$69.3 M in 2016-17 for per pupil aid payments
- Effect: Fund \$150 per pupil in 15-16 and \$250 per pupil in 16-17 on an ongoing basis

Sparsity Aid

- Provide \$4.2 M annually

High Cost Transportation Aid

- Provide \$2.5 M annually

Special Education Transitions Incentive Grants

- Provide \$100,000 beginning in 16-17 in a new appropriation for grants to school districts or privately run charter schools who would receive \$1,000 for each pupil with an individualized education program who go on to college, training program or is competitively employed within one year of leaving high school

High Cost Special Education Aid

- Provide \$5 M in 16-17 for high cost special education aid

CHOICE, CHARTER & OPEN ENROLLMENT

Private School Choice Program Expansion (Racine & Statewide Program)

- Remove the cap on the statewide voucher program and begins funding this program and the Racine program comparable to the open enrollment program
- Specify that pupils could be counted by school district of residence for general school aids and revenue limit purposes
- Specify that school districts could not levy to backfill the aid reduction
- Provide that the total number of pupils would could participate would be limited to no more than 1% of the district's prior year enrollment
- Specify that the enrollment limit would increase by 1% in each year beginning in 17-18 until the enrollment limit reaches 10% of the district's prior year enrollment with no limit going forward

Private School Choice Program Expansion (Special Needs Vouchers)

- Create a special needs voucher program, beginning in 16-17, and allow a child with a disability to attend a participating private school of the child's parent's choice, if that child has previously been rejected from attending school in a nonresident district under the open enrollment program
- Require DPI to pay an amount equal to \$12,000 in 16-17 on behalf of each child participating in the program to the private school that the pupil attends
- Specify that the pupils participating in the program could be counted by their school district of residence for general aid and revenue limit purposes

Charter Schools

- Specify that privately run charter school operators could open additional schools if all of the schools operated by the governing board have received one of the top two ratings on the most recent school accountability reports (applies to future contracts for these schools)
- Estimate: payment for privately run charter schools would be \$8,087 per pupil in 15-16 and \$8,195 in 16-17

Open Enrollment

- Estimate: Open enrollment transfer amount would be \$6,647 in 15-16 and \$6,755 in 16-17
- Make changes to the open enrollment program as it related to children with disabilities beginning in 16-17 by deleting the ability of the resident school district to deny the open enrollment application based on undue financial burden and set the per pupil transfer amount at \$12,000

DISTRICT OPERATION & STANDARDS

Educational Standards

- Scrap the Common Core

School Accountability Report

- Use a star rating system of 1-5 stars

Teacher and Administrator Contract Renewals

- Modify the date by which a school board must give a teacher or administrator written notice of renewal or refusal to renew the teacher or administrator's contract to be 15 days after the passage of the state budget in odd-numbered years, and May 15 in even numbered years
- Specify that the teacher or administrator must accept or reject the contract no later than 30 days after the renewal notification deadline

High School Graduation Standards

- Allow school districts to create a process through which a high school pupil could earn credit through demonstrating competency or creating a learning portfolio
- Specify that a pupil could earn no more than half of the credits required for high school graduation through this process

MPS Takeover

- Give an appointed commissioner control over schools that receive the lowest rating on the most recent school district accountability report
- Require the commissioner to select 1-3 schools during the 15-16 school year, no more than 3 in the 16-17 school year and no more than 5 in the 17-18 school year and in each school year thereafter to be transferred to the commissioner's control in the following school year for operation in the subsequent year
- Open the door for substantially similar program for other school districts

ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER FUNDING

Alternative Assessments

- Request DPI to request a waiver from the federal Department of Education to allow the state to approve between 3 and 5 assessments from which a school district, privately run charter school and voucher school could choose
- Allow school districts to select their own reading readiness assessment for pupils enrolled in 4K-second grade

Civics Assessment

- Require high school students in public and voucher schools to pass a civics exam to graduate

Alternative Teacher Licensure

- Require DPI to grant an initial teaching license to teach a technical education subject to an individual who scores at least 100 points based on a point system with at least 25 points based on experience in a technical field and at least 25 points based on pedagogical experience, and agrees to complete a curriculum determined by the school board (no bachelor's required)
- Require DPI to grant a teaching license to teach English, social studies, math or science to any individual with a bachelor's degree, if the school board or voucher school determines that the individual is proficient in the subject and has relevant experience

- Require DPI to issue a teaching permit to an individual in any subject area excluding those listed in the point above, if the school board or voucher school determines that the individual is proficient in each subject he or she intends to teach and has relevant experience