

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Jane English, Chair

Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Vice Chair

SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

November 1, 2016

Senator Jonathan Dismang
President Pro Tempore
Arkansas Senate
Room 320, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Representative Jeremy Gillam
Speaker of the House
Arkansas House of Representatives
Room 350, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Report on the Legislative Hearings for the 2016 Educational Adequacy Study

Dear President Dismang and Speaker Gillam:

The Senate Interim Committee on Education of the 90th Arkansas General Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated §10-3- 2101 et seq., is pleased to submit its report on the legislative hearings held for the purpose of completing the 2016 interim study on the adequacy of the state's system of public education.

The 2016 Adequacy Report consists of two (2) volumes. Volume I contains the initial findings and recommendations of the Committee. Volume II contains copies of all materials presented to the House and Senate Education Committees for this adequacy review.

As you will see in Volume I, the Committee made the following recommendations concerning educational adequacy:

Topic	Recommendation
Special Education Funding	Increase Catastrophic Occurrences Funding by \$2,000,000 in FY18 and \$2,020,000 in FY19.
Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule	Increase each step of the statutory minimum teacher salary schedule by the corresponding increase provided to the teacher salary line of the matrix.
Declining Enrollment Funding	Review declining enrollment funding.

Categorical Funding

Topic	Recommendation
National School Lunch Funding	No change to the NSL funding rates, but create a separate \$4.3 million NSL matching grant program to help districts provide tutoring services, pre-K programs and before- and after-school programs.
Professional Development Funding	Increase PD funding to \$41 per student in FY18 and \$50 per student in FY 19.
English Language Learner Funding	Increase ELL funding to \$338 per ELL student in FY18 and FY19.
Alternative Learning Environment Funding	Increase ALE funding to \$4,640 per ALE FTE student in FY18 and FY19.

Foundation Funding and the Matrix

Topic	Recommendation
Teacher Salary	Increase the teacher salary in the matrix to \$64,998 in FY18 and \$65,811 in FY19.
Secretary	Increase the per-student amount for a secretary to \$80.90 in FY18 and \$81.70 in FY19.
Extra Duty Funds	Increase the per-student amount for extra duty funds to \$65.50 in FY18 and \$66.20 in FY19.
Substitutes	Increase the per-student amount for substitutes to \$70.40 in FY18 and \$71.80 in FY19.
Operations and Maintenance	Increase the per-student amount for O&M to \$674.90 in FY18 and \$685.00 in FY19
Transportation	Leave the per-student amount for transportation flat, but create a separate \$3 million supplemental transportation program.
Total Foundation Funding Rate	With the increases noted above and any necessary rounding adjustments, increase the per-student foundation funding rate to \$6,713 in FY18 and \$6,781 in FY19.

As you review this report, please keep in mind that it is not a static document, but one that is subject to revision or modification by the Committee as the situation warrants and is provided for by statute.

The members of the Committee look forward to working with you and the members of the 91st General Assembly to ensure the continued adequacy of our state's system of public education.

Sincerely,



Jane English, Chair
Senate Interim Committee on Education

c: The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor, State of Arkansas
The Honorable Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Interim Committee on Education