

From Senator Johnston

Proposed School Finance Bills

Average Daily Membership

A proposal to work with CDE to make a multi year transition toward developing data systems that would allow us to use an Average Daily Membership count as the format for delivering the school finance formula in place of the current student count day. This bill would be contingent upon the state winning Race to the Top or attracting other federal or state dollars to support CDE in developing the capacity to build out these data systems. Once a pilot of this program is developed by CDE the state will then phase in the use of this formula over a series of three years to allow districts to adjust to any financing changes that may come from the new system. In the first year of the transition the districts would still be funded at 67% based on October count and 33% based on ADM, in the second year they would be funded at 67% based on ADM and 33% based on October count, in the 3rd year the system will transition to 100% of funding being allocated according to ADM and not October count.

At Risk Funding Following the Child

A proposal to adjust the funding of charter schools based on their actual proportion of at risk students. This would change the current system for charters grandfathered in before the 2005 statute establishing that charters would be funded through this mechanism. Under this proposal charter schools would receive at-risk funding in direct relation to the actual percentage of at-risk students they have enrolled in their school rather than the district average of at risk students. Charter schools that have a lower enrollment of at risk students than the district average would lose funding under this proposal, charter schools that have a higher enrollment of at risk students than the district average would receive additional funding under this proposal. This would provide the incentives for charter schools to serve the hardest to serve populations in each district or to adjust funding for schools that establish programs that deliberately serve a lower need population. This would be phased in over three years so that charters would have a chance to 1) prepare for any budgetary changes that may result and more importantly 2) use the intervening years to make targeted attempts to recruit a more diverse student body so that their population is more representative of the district. In addition it would require districts to ensure that a certain percent of their at risk dollars followed the student. Currently 75% of the at risk dollars are required to be spent on at risk programs, this would propose a further requirement that 50% of that 75% would be required to follow the child to the particular school he or she attends.

At Risk Funding Increases

Already drafted by Nicole Myers