

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attachment D

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 091
200 EAST COLFAX AVENUE
DENVER, COLORADO 80203-1782

TELEPHONE: 303-866-2045 FACSIMILE: 303-866-4157
E-MAIL: OLLS.GA@STATE.CO.US

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Massey

FROM: Office of Legislative Legal Services

DATE: September 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Bill Proposals for School Finance Interim Committee

This memo serves to outline two proposals that you have requested for the School Finance Interim Committee.

1. Incentives for small school districts to jointly provide services

- ✓ A school district with fewer than a specified number of students would be encouraged and provided financial incentives to enter into agreements with surrounding school districts for the provision of services that could be delivered more cheaply if the districts could realize economies of scale.
- ✓ Services could include:
 - ☐ administrative services (even to the extent of sharing a superintendent and other district administrative staff);
 - ☐ services such as food service, transportation, accounting, and special education services; and
 - ☐ other personnel, including teaching staff

2. Increased financial support for supplemental on-line courses

- ✓ The General Assembly would provide a higher level of funding for supplemental on-line courses
 - ☐ Currently, under §22-5-119, C.R.S., the mountain BOCES is directed to contract with a supplemental on-line course provider (Colorado supplemental on-line) that sells supplemental on-line courses to school districts, charter schools, BOCES, and facility schools. Under the terms of the contract, the cost of a supplemental on-line course cannot exceed \$200 per student.
 - For FY2009-10, the General Assembly appropriated \$480,000 in mineral lease moneys to fund the supplemental on-line course provider contract
 - §22-5-119, C.R.S., will repeal July 1, 2010

- ☞ Currently, under §22-2-130, C.R.S., the department of education administers a grant program to provide moneys to assist eligible school districts, eligible charter schools, BOCES, and facility schools in purchasing supplemental on-line courses
 - A school district is eligible for a grant if it has fewer than 3,000 students and does not export its own on-line education program to students outside of district boundaries
 - A charter school is eligible if it is authorized by an eligible school district and is not an on-line education program or if it is an institute charter school that enrolls fewer than 3,000 students and does not operate an on-line education program
 - For FY2009-10, the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 in mineral lease moneys to fund the supplemental on-line education grant program
 - §22-2-130, C.R.S., will repeal July 1, 2010
- ✓ The proposed bill could increase the amount currently appropriated to support the availability of supplemental on-line courses by:
 - ☞ identifying an additional funding source for the supplemental on-line course provider and requiring the provider to offer the courses at a lower cost per student
 - ☞ identifying an additional funding source for the supplemental on-line education grant program

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Julie Pelegrin (julie.pelegrin@state.co.us or 303.866.2700) or Nicole Meyers (nicole.meyers@state.co.us or 303.866.4326).