

# COMMISSIONER'S WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL FUNDING

## Reporting Back # 2

**Voting procedure:** Decisions to be based on 2/3 of quorum

**Tentative positions:** May 4, 2011 meeting

### **Issue # 5: Formula Simplification part 2**

Working group supports simplifying the formula accepting the MDE recommendations related to declining enrollment, safe schools, pension adjustment, training and experience and gifted and talented funding with the understanding that there will be a set-aside for the safe schools and gifted and talented components.

### **Issue # 6: Compensatory Funding**

There will be further discussion on issue of compensatory revenue. Although 90 % would be based on poverty, concern exists about use of 10% directed to students who are not proficient. Will be discussed in conjunction with innovation funding.

### **Issue # 7: Basic Skills –Extended Time**

Working group supports changing extended time by including under compensatory formula while providing greater flexibility to districts for how it is used. Consider calling “extended effort.”

### **Issue # 8: Limited English Proficiency**

Working group supports changing LEP formula by extending eligibility from 5 to 7 years and increasing the funding for concentration aid from \$250 to \$350 for districts with ELL populations of 16 % or more.

### **Issue # 9: Integration Funding**

Working group including integration funding in the general education program as a component of basic skills revenue and allocating revenue based on the number of students of color in each district. All districts with an integration plan would receive an allowance of \$585 per student of color with Minneapolis receiving an additional \$100 per student of color as a transition adjustment.

Policy would continue to require budget approval by MDE and revenue is the lesser of the allowance or actual expenditure under approved budget.

Concerns:

- Need to more clearly define acceptable uses.
- Need to separate concept from achievement gap.
- How do we demonstrate progress i.e. accountability?
- Are there more innovative ways to use resources?
- How can we transform diversity from a liability to an asset?
- Need to be flexible in uses based on local needs and unique issues.
- Should there be a floor to assure a minimum amount of funding?

## **Reporting Back 1**

**Tentative positions:** April 20, 2011 meeting

### **Issue #1: All day kindergarten**

Working group supports and acknowledges the importance of all day kindergarten for all children and support targeted funding based on poverty at this time with a long term goal of phasing in state funding for all students in the future.

Concerns:

- Needs to be optional.
- Some districts may have facilities or space issues.
- Transportation costs.

### **Issue # 2 Formula Simplification**

Pupil weighting

Working group finds there is value in simplifying the pupil weighting by having elementary be weighted at 1.0 and grades 7-12 weighted at either 1.16 or 1.2 with an adjustment in the formula to either \$5,571 or \$5,685 to reflect this change.

### **Issue # 3 Referendum Roll-in and Uniform General Education Levy**

Working group wishes to move forward and further explore the option of a uniform general education levy by rolling a portion of the referendum revenue into the basic formula.

Concerns:

- This done as part of package of changes.
- What will be new referenda cap?
- No increases in overall levy target.
- How significant is impact of redistribution of property taxes among districts?