

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 04, 2019
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Room WW17
MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Marilyn Whitney, SDE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Chairman Clow said the meeting would be a work session to discuss the funding formula draft legislation. The goal is to introduce an RS as soon as possible to allow public comment, but multiple RSs may be needed to make changes. He stated the discussion would not be about how much money to add to public school funding, but how the funding formula should be changed and the resulting effect on how money is distributed to schools across the state.

Rep. Goesling stated he would like the legislation to contain accountability measures.

Elizabeth Bowen, Principal Legislative Drafting Attorney, Legislative Services Office, explained the status of the career ladder in the draft legislation, which was based on stakeholder feedback. Each Local Education Agency (LEA) must develop a local salary schedule and the criteria necessary to move up. The starting compensation for the first residency (R1) and professional (P1) rungs must be no less than the minimum written into code, but beyond that the local schedule does not have to match the state career ladder compensation table. LEAs will report to the State Department of Education about staff placement if the career ladder was the mandatory statewide schedule; the state will allocate teacher salary funds based on the state compensation table placement.

Rep. Marshall expressed concern about the retention of quality, experienced teachers and suggested an experience adjustment should be built into the funding.

Vice Chairman Kerby explained the draft addresses this by removing any specification of how many teachers an LEA must hire and basing the state's funding allocation on a weighted average, rather than a separate allocation for each individual. An LEA can decide to hire fewer teachers and increase salaries by stretching the state allocation, or they can hire the number of teachers at the salary provided for by the allocation. The weighted average counts the number of teachers at each experience level, multiplies that number by the state allocation, then divides by the total number of teachers. If a district hired less experienced teachers, they would receive less money, but the only required salaries are the two minimums for R1 and P1. How to distribute the state allocation beyond that is a district-level decision.

Rep. Goesling noted the draft does not contain definitions for alternative and charter schools. It was agreed to add the definition of charter schools.

Rep. Goesling suggested the definition of "child with a disability" should specify who evaluates them. Upon input from the Committee, it was decided not to further expand the definition.

Vice Chairman Kerby stated the draft allows for flexibility in low-revenue years by making the student weights adjustable, subject to appropriation. This prevents the weights from automatically increasing and drawing money away from the base per student amount.

Ms. Bowen and **Vice Chairman Kerby** stated there are specific criteria to determine if a student is homeless. That designation was added as a subset of economically disadvantaged.

Rep. Goesling suggested the standard for teacher advancement on the salary schedule/career ladder should be higher than a "majority" of students meeting student achievement targets. He stated this is an accountability issue and schools should be held to a higher standard to ensure return on state investment.

Chairman Clow and **Rep. Mendive** stated policy changes should be made separately and the draft legislation needs to remain completely focused on the funding formula.

Rep. Marshall raised three issues for the Committee to consider: student weighting, a comparison of line items with those included in the formula, and whether teacher salaries should be within the formula or funded separately.

Chairman Clow discussed the weights, as found in the draft, for economically disadvantaged, English language learners, and gifted and talented.

Reps. Moon and **Goesling** stated gifted and talented should not be included as a weight.

Reps. McCrostie and **Berch** stated gifted and talented should be included, particularly for grades K-6.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary