

STATE AID FUNDING FORMULA TASK FORCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

October 29, 2018

Recommendation 1: Simplify the State Aid Funding Formula by collapsing the Salary Incentive Aid portion of the formula into the Foundation Aid portion of the formula. This would increase the transparency of the formula by capturing all 35 mills of the adjusted valuation in one place in the formula (15 mills under Foundation Aid and 20 mills under Salary Incentive Aid). An appropriation of an additional \$40 million (the State Department of Education will get the exact number) may be needed to “hold harmless” districts impacted by this change. See: 70 O.S. § 18-200.1

Recommendation 2: Update the pupil grade level weights as shown below.

Grade Level	Current Weight	New Weight
Three-year olds with IEP	1.2	No change
Half-day early childhood	.7	.6
Full-day early childhood	1.3	1.2
Half-day kindergarten	1.3	.6
Full-day kindergarten	1.5	1.0
First and second grade	1.351	1.0
Third grade	1.051	1.0
Fourth through sixth grades	1.0	1.0
Seventh through twelfth grades	1.2	1.0 for seventh and eighth grades
		1.2 for ninth through twelfth grades
Out-of-home placement	1.5	No change

See: 70 O.S. § 18-201.1

Recommendation 3: Change the definition of Bilingual students to match the definition of English Learners. See: 70 O.S. § 18-109.5

Recommendation 4: Update the pupil category weights as shown below. All other pupil category weights leave unchanged. The Task Force understands that the changes may need to be phased in over three years.

Category	Current Weight	New Weight
Speech or Language Impairment	.05	.15
Bilingual	.25	.50
Economically Disadvantaged	.25	.50

See: 70 O.S. § 18-201.1

Recommendation 5: The task force believes the Transportation Supplement needs to be modernized, however, additional research needs to occur before making any changes. A few possible changes could be to increase the Transportation Factor from its current 1.39, or possibly collapse the Transportation Supplement into the Foundation Aid portion of the funding formula but only if the Small Schools and Sparsity - Isolation weights are adjusted as well. See: 70 O.S. § 18-200.1

Recommendation 6: The task force recommends further research concerning the Small School District and District Sparsity – Isolation calculations using a chart similar to that used for the Transportation Supplement. See: 70 O.S. § 18-200.1 and 70 O.S. § 18-201.1

Recommendation 7: Simplify and update the weighted Teacher Experience-Degree Index portion of the State Aid Funding Formula. The number of years of experience should be expanded from over 15 years of experience to 25 years of experience. An example of the weights could be: teachers with 1-9 years of experience would receive a weight of 1.0, 10-20 years of experience receive a weight of 1.10, and teachers with more than 20 years of experience receive a weight of 1.20. The exact weights could be determined with the assistance of the State Department of Education. See: 70 O.S. § 18-201.1

Recommendation 8: Update the Alternative Education funding process. Determine the differences between Alternative Education and credit recovery. Determine the true costs of providing Alternative Education services. Update the cost data by using data from the State Department of Education rather than using data from 1994. Determine whether funding should come from a line item, a pupil category weight, or grants. See: 70 O.S. § 1210.568

Recommendation 9: Change the language in the current law to fund virtual charter schools on their actual student population and weights after their first year in existence by striking the words, “and each year thereafter” in 70 O.S. § 3-142(B)(2).

Recommendation 10: Research the feasibility of allowing local school districts to raise an additional 5 mills of revenue for school operations through local elections. See: 70 O.S. § 18-200.1