

Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance

Summary of Engrossed Second
Substitute Senate Bill 5627

September 10, 2007

E2SSB 5627

- Created the task force
- Delegated responsibilities
- Established the membership
- Addressed staffing
- Designated resources to be used
- Set timelines for WSIPP reports
- Required consideration of certain issues
- Provided criteria

Responsibilities of the Task Force

- Review the definition of basic education
- Review all current basic education funding formulas
- Develop options for a new funding structure and all the necessary formulas
- Propose a new definition of basic education

Membership

14 members:

- Chair
- 8 legislators
- Governor's representative
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
- 3 additional members

Staffing & Resources

- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) provides research support
 - Must consult stakeholders & experts in the field
- The WSIPP may request assistance from:
 - LEAP
 - OSPI
 - OFM
 - OPR
 - SCS

Resources

Task force to review and build upon the following:

- Reports produced for and by WA Learns
- High-quality studies that are available
- WSIPP research reviews as previously directed by the legislature

WSIPP Reports to the Task Force

Initial Report: (due Sept. 15, 2007)

- Plan of action
- Reporting dates
- Timelines for considering specified issues
- An initial timeline for phase-in implementation

Second Report: (due Dec. 1, 2007)

- 2 to 4 options for allocating school employee compensation
 - 1 option must be a redirection/prioritization within existing resources
- A projection of the expected effect of the investment made under the new structure
- A finalized timeline and plan for addressing the remaining components of the new funding system

Final report: (due Sept. 15, 2008)

- 2 to 4 options for the remaining K-12 funding structure
 - 1 option must be a redirection/prioritization within existing resources
- A projection of the expected effect of the investment made under the new structure
- A timeline for phasing in the new funding structure
- Necessary implementing legislation

Issues to be considered

(as listed in 5627, section 3, subsection (2))

- Professional development for all staff
- Elements of instructional staff compensation, including:
 - Pay for performance, knowledge, and skill
 - Cost-of-living
 - Recognition of difficult assignments
 - Recognition of professional level of certificate
- A plan for implementing the pay structure
- Voluntary all-day kindergarten
- Optimum class size
- Focused instructional support for students and schools
- Extended school day and school year options
- Health & safety requirements

Criteria in 5627 for the new funding structure

- Unique, stable and adequate
- Supportive & aligned with the goals, vision and new expectations established in the final WA Learns report & the basic education provisions in current law
- Based on research-proven education programs/activities
- Reflective of the most effective instructional strategies and service delivery models
- Have demonstrated cost benefits
- Provide maximum transparency
- Be linked to accountability for student outcomes and performance