

TSBA Legislative Alert

November 2, 2006

BEP Review Committee issues report; no consensus on specific system-level fiscal capacity model

The Basic Education Program (BEP) Review Committee submitted its annual report yesterday to the Governor, Select Oversight Committee on Education and the State Board of Education. The purpose of the report is to identify needs within the funding formula and present immediate and extended priorities.

The committee identified the following items as immediate priorities:

- An increase in funding for at-risk students;
- An increase in funding for English Language Learners;
- Full funding of growth in Average Daily Membership; and
- The restoration of the BEP instructional salary state share to 75 percent

In addition, the committee recommended the following improvements as extended priorities:

- Funding positions not currently covered through the BEP by funding teachers at a reduced class-size ratio;
- Professional development;
- School nurses;
- Teacher classroom materials and supplies (\$100 addition);
- Technology coordinators;
- Technology;
- Alternative schools;
- Capital outlay;
- Transportation; and
- Readjustment of the cost differential factor in accordance with the Governor's 2004 Task Force recommendation on teacher pay equity

As many expected, the committee was not able to reach a consensus on a specific fiscal capacity model, a topic that has created much interest and some controversy throughout the state. However, the committee did reach a consensus on the following language:

The BEP Review Committee Report on November 1, 2006, will include a discussion of various models for measuring fiscal capacity, a report on salary disparity and recommendations for immediate and extended priorities. The committee will continue to work on system-level fiscal capacity issues and a small group will address issues related to adequacy, with a report and recommendations on both to be presented by February 15, 2007.

To review the complete report, go to the following website:

http://state.tn.us/sbe/BEP/bep_11_06.pdf

Or, to view a PowerPoint presentation of the report, visit:

http://state.tn.us/sbe/BEP/2006_BEP_RevComm_Report_Summary.pdf

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