

15.1-27-16. Per student payments – Administrative cost sharing - Cooperating districts.

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1. If any school district receiving payments under this chapter cooperates with another school district for the joint provision of educational services under a plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction, the superintendent of public instruction shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 15.1-27-03.2, create and assign a separate weighting factor that allows the cooperating districts to receive, for a period of four years, a payment rate equivalent to that which each district would have received had the cooperative plan not taken effect. The superintendent of public instruction shall compute the separate weighting factor to four decimal places and that weighting factor is effective for the duration of the cooperative plan.

2. A school district that is cooperating with another school district under a cooperative plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction, and which has taxable property located in the same city as the other school district under the cooperative plan, may not be required as part of the cooperative plan to:

- a.
- b. Share administrative personnel.

Deleted: Provide unduplicated grade level services; or

3.

a. If any school district receiving payments under this chapter cooperates with another school district to jointly employ both a superintendent and a business manager, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide partial reimbursement of the combined salaries of the superintendent and the business manager. If the combined salaries exceed \$300,000, the amount of the reimbursement shall be calculated based upon \$300,000. Each cooperating school district shall receive an prorated share of the reimbursement percentages listed below based on the percentage of full-time equivalency that the superintendent and business manager are employed by each district. The percentage of reimbursement for the combined salaries of the jointly hired superintendent and business manager shall be as follows:

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- (1) if two schools are cooperating - 10% of the combined salaries;
- (2) if three schools are cooperating - 15% of the combined salaries;
- (3) if four schools are cooperating - 20% of the combined salaries;
- (4) if five or more schools are cooperating - 25% of the combined salaries;

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(1)

Deleted: Prior to jointly hiring a superintendent or business manager, submit to the department an agreement executed by all cooperating school districts which includes the names of the school districts, the procedures outlining the cooperation of the boards, ADD LANGUAGE DPI thinks would be helpful. It seems like at a minimum, DPI wants to have a heads-up about the districts taking this path in advance (and not find out after the fact). But DOES DPI want to have criteria and approval/rejection authority? ¶
(2) Submit quarterly requests for reimbursement (How does DPI want to pay? Get invoiced? I think you'd want confirmation that both are still working for all districts). ¶

b. To be eligible for reimbursement, the cooperating school districts shall be approved by the Department of Public Instruction with an effective date after June 30, 2022.

c. School districts must submit the superintendent and business manager's salaries by June 1 to the Department of Public Instruction to be eligible for reimbursement.

AND APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE WILL BE NEEDED

Deleted: If either the jointly hired superintendent or the business manager positions become vacant, cooperating school districts remain eligible for reimbursement of the remaining salary for up to ninety days. If the position remains vacant after ninety days, the cooperating schools shall not be eligible for reimbursement under this section until the cooperating school districts demonstrate to the superintendent of public instruction that the vacancy has been filled.

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