

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2328

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Erbele, Klein

Representatives Headland, Vigesaa, Weisz

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 15.1-27-03.2 of the North~~
2 ~~Dakota Century Code, relating to weighting factors for rural schools.~~ for an Act to create a school
3 funding task force; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an
4 appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** ~~Subsection 4 of section 15.1-27-03.2 of the North Dakota~~
7 ~~Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows: —~~
8 ~~————— 4. The school district size weighting factor determined under this section and~~
9 ~~multiplied by a school district's weighted average daily membership equals the~~
10 ~~district's weighted student units. For the 2022-23 school year, for school districts that~~
11 ~~operate multiple kindergarten through grade twelve buildings at least nineteenfourteen~~
12 ~~miles [30.5822.53 kilometers] apart, or multiple buildings at least nineteenfourteen~~
13 ~~miles [30.5822.53 kilometers] apart with no replicated grades, the superintendent of~~
14 ~~public instruction shall determine the school size weighting factor for each building~~
15 ~~separately, with no adjustment for elementary schools. The superintendent of public~~
16 ~~instruction shall multiply the school size weighting factor for each building by the~~
17 ~~school district's weighted average daily membership to determine each building's~~
18 ~~weighted student units. The superintendent of public instruction shall combine the~~
19 ~~weighted student units of all buildings in the school district to determine the school~~
20 ~~district's weighted student units.~~

21 **SECTION 1. SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
22 **MANAGEMENT.**
23 1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall establish and provide
24 staffing and administrative services to a school funding task force facilitated by a

- 1 nonpartisan leadership organization. The task force may include public school
2 administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of the
3 legislative assembly appointed by the legislative management, parents of public
4 school students, representatives from the department of public instruction, a
5 representative from the governor's office, and a representative from a regional
6 education association.
- 7 2. During the 2023-24 interim, the school funding task force shall:
- 8 a. Review litigation the state was a party to relating to school funding and the
9 resulting implications for school funding models;
- 10 b. Analyze higher education funding sources to determine whether the sources may
11 be used in whole or in part for the kindergarten through grade twelve system;
- 12 c. Review school payment formulas to determine whether education costs can be
13 equalized across the state;
- 14 d. Study the size, student population, and economics of school districts and the
15 number of facilities within the district per square mile compared with student
16 population;
- 17 e. Develop and study sliding-scale models within school districts based on size,
18 student populations, and economics;
- 19 f. Assess the negative impacts of the current funding formula;
- 20 g. Study school funding formulas used by other states;
- 21 h. Determine the benefits of and incentives to promote school district consolidation;
- 22 i. Review school transportation costs considering location, size, and student
23 enrollment; and
- 24 j. Study high-cost student and special education student costs as those costs relate
25 to the formula weighting factors.
- 26 3. The task force may:
- 27 a. Study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering
28 location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and
- 29 b. Review ending fund balances and analyze how the the current funding formula
30 impacts ending fund balances.

1 4. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
2 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative
3 assembly.

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - SCHOOL**
5 **DISTRICT OPERATING GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any
6 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
7 \$3,095,040, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction
8 for the purpose of providing operating grants to school districts, for the biennium beginning
9 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this section is to be considered
10 one-time funding. The department of public instruction shall provide grants to school districts as
11 follows:

<u>School District</u>	<u>Grant</u>
12 Hope-Page public school district	\$150,000
13 Dakota prairie school district	409,316
14 Midkota public school district	264,437
15 North border school district	687,145
16 TGU school district	809,927
17 Lewis and Clark public school district	<u>774,215</u>
18	\$3,095,040
19	