

# **Funding Schools Adequately in North Dakota:**

## ***Resources to Double Student Performance***

Report to the  
Education Interim Committee  
Of the North Dakota Legislature

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Allan Odden, Lawrence O. Picus, & Mike Goetz  
Lawrence O. Picus and Associates

# **Agenda**

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- **Quick description of North Dakota school finance**
- **Brief discussion of student performance**
- **Detailed discussion of the Evidence Based model**



# **Key Features of ND School Funding System**

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- **Per Student Payment of \$3,250**
- **Equity Guarantee of \$3,774**
- **Sum of these -- \$7,024 -- is what we compared to the base adequacy number**
- **We also compared our new weights to both the base adequacy number and to the Per Student Payment of \$3,250**



## **ND Student Performance**

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- **Relatively good on state tests; 80-90 percent of students score at or above proficiency**
- **Modest using a national and more rigorous standard for proficiency; only about 30-40 percent achieve at or above the NAEP proficiency**
- **So substantial room to improve – double -- student performance**





# **Context**

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- **Work of the Commission to improve the equity of the North Dakota funding system**
- **Implemented a new funding system for 2007-08**
- **Need to estimate an adequate funding level for the future**



# **Report Goals**

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- **Identify the resources all districts and schools need to “double” student performance in the next 4-6 years**
- **Reduce the achievement gap**
- **Move from “good” to “great”**
- **Student performance to rival top performing nations**
- **Grow the North Dakota economy to compete globally**



# **Our Process**

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- **Regular meetings with Commission**
- **Development of North Dakota evidence based model**
- **Professional Judgment Panels**
- **Site visits to ten high performing schools**
- **Estimation of the per pupil costs of an adequate funding system**



# **Summary of Recommendations**

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- 1. \*Core class sizes (English/language arts, math, science, social studies and world language)**
  - K-3 – 15
  - 4-12 – 25
- 2. \*Specialist and elective teachers (art, music, PE, etc.)**
  - 20% of core teachers K-8
  - 33% of core teachers 9-12



## **Summary of Recommendations**

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- 3. \*Instructional coaches for professional development**
  - 1 FTE coach per 200 students
- 4. Tutors for struggling students**
  - \*1 per prototype school, plus
  - 1FTE tutor per 125 at-risk students
- 5. Increased weight of 1.0 for new immigrant ELL students**



## **Summary of Recommendations**

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- 6. Extended day program (1 FTE teacher per 15 eligible students – 50% of at-risk count)**
- 7. Summer school (retain current weight)**
- 8. Alternative school weight retained at 0.25 applied to Per Student Payment**



# **Summary of Recommendations**

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## **9. Special Education**

- **Retain census approach**
- **\*1 FTE teacher and 1 FTE aide per 150 ADM**
- **State funding for 1% highest cost students**

## **10. \*\$25 per ADM for Gifted and Talented**



# **Summary of Recommendations**

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**11. No recommendation on career and technical education**

**12. \*Substitute teachers (10 days per teacher)**

**13. Pupil support/guidance counselors**

- **\*1 per prototypical elementary school and 1 per 250 middle and high school ADM**
- **1 FTE per 125 at-risk students**





# **Summary of Recommendations**

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## **14. \*Non-instructional aides**

- 2 for each prototypical elementary and middle school
- 3 for each prototypical high school

## **15. \*1 librarian for each prototypical school**

## **16. \*Principals**

- 1 per prototypical elementary
- 1 plus 0.5 AP per prototypical middle
- 1 plus 1.0 AP per prototypical high school



# **Summary of Recommendations**

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## **17.\*Secretaries**

- 2 for prototypical elementary and middle schools
- 4 for prototypical high schools

## **18.\*Professional Development**

- 8 additional days for teachers
- \$100 per pupil for trainers and expenses
- (This is in addition to the instructional coaches)



# **Summary of Recommendations**

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**19. \*Technology -- \$250 per ADM**

**20. \*Instructional materials/formative assessments**

- **\$170 per elementary and middle school ADM**
- **\$205 per high school ADM**

**21. \*Student activities**

- **\$200 per elementary and middle school ADM**
- **\$250 per high school ADM**



## **Summary of Recommendations**

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**22. \*\$600 per ADM for central office staff and services**

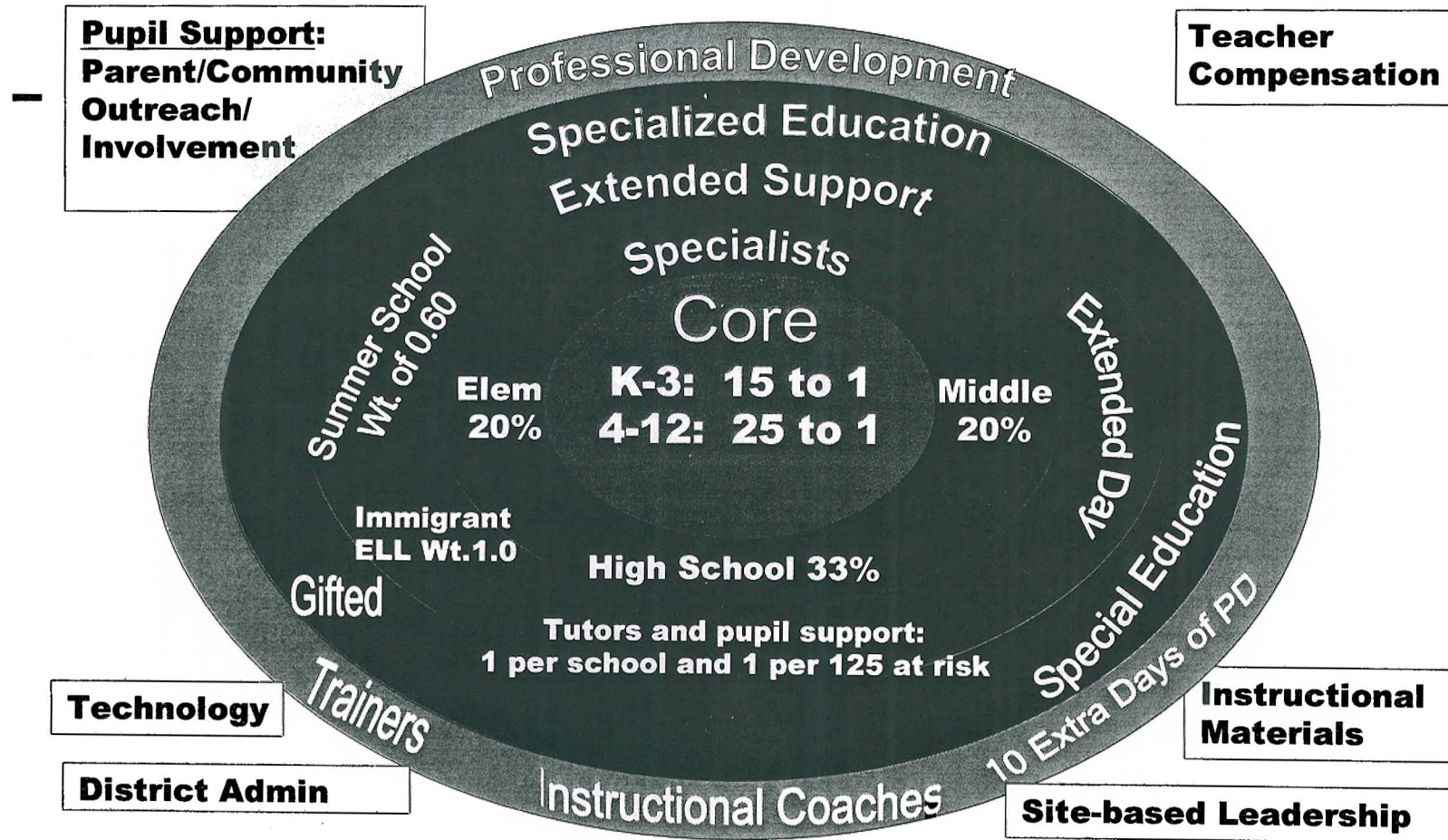
**23. \*\$851 per ADM for operations and maintenance of schools and the district**





# The Evidence Based Model:

A Research Driven Approach to Linking Resources to Student Performance



## **Other Issues Excluded from RFP**

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- **Pupil Transportation – need for some increased state support and a mechanism for raising local revenues for local share of costs**
- **Provision for local school districts to raise additional revenue beyond base support**

# **Assumptions**

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- **Focus on the use of ALL dollars, not just new dollars**
- **All existing resources are available to implement recommendations**
- **Allocation of current resources to the most effective, efficient, and evidence-based educational strategies available at the classroom, school and district level**





# **How We Estimated Adequacy**

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- **Prototype Districts and Schools**
  - **3,828 student district**
    - 4 Elementary schools (432 students)
    - 2 Middle schools (450 students)
    - 2 High schools (600 students)
  - **600 student district**
    - Prorated from the 3,828 student district  
( $600/3,828$ )





# **How We Estimated Adequacy**

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- **Prototype Districts and Schools**
  - **185 Student district**
    - **Option 1: Prorate from 600 students with a principal and librarian at each school**
    - **Option 2: More generous staffing per recommendations of the Professional Judgment Panels**



# **How We Estimated Adequacy**

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- **Applied average state-wide salary figures using data provided by the North Dakota Department of Education to the prototype personnel allocations**
- **We did not develop a geographic cost index**



# Cost Estimates

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- Base figure \$7,293 per ADM, compared to the current \$7,024 which is sum of Per Student Payment of \$3,250 and Equity Base of \$3,774.
- Weights applied are for:
  - At-risk (tutors, pupil support and extended day) and ELL
  - Special Education
  - Summer school and Alternative School
  - Retain additional ADM for isolated schools
  - Small Districts (1.25)



# Categorical Program Weights

Extra Need Category	Weight Relative to	
	Per Student Payment (\$3,250)	Adequate Spending Level (\$7,293)
Tutors <sup>a</sup>	0.130	0.058
ELL <sup>b</sup>	1.000	0.446
Extended Day <sup>a</sup>	0.132	0.060
Summer School <sup>c</sup>	0.600	0.267
Additional Pupil Support <sup>a</sup>	0.130	0.058
Special Education <sup>d</sup>	0.170	0.070

Weights applied to: a – at-risk count; b – immigrant ELL students; c – summer school ADM; d – regular ADM





# **Weights for Special Education**

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- **Weights for children with mild and moderate disabilities (applied to all district ADM)**
  - 0.170 relative to per student payment
  - 0.070 relative adequacy estimate
- **Full state funding for high cost children (1% of total special education population)**





# Other Weights

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- Kindergarten = 1.0
- Gifted and Talented = \$25 per ADM for all ADM in district
- Small district weight of 1.25 but applied to adequate spending level of \$7,293 rather than Per Student Payment of \$3,250



# **Discussion and Questions**

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**Lawrence O. Picus and Associates**

[lpicus@lpicus.com](mailto:lpicus@lpicus.com)

[arodden@lpicus.com](mailto:arodden@lpicus.com)

[megoetz@lpicus.com](mailto:megoetz@lpicus.com)

**[www.lpicus.com](http://www.lpicus.com)**

