

Introduced by

Senator Davison

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-27-16 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to administrative cost-sharing for cooperating districts and special education units.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-27-16. Per student payments - Administrative cost-sharing - Cooperating**  
7 **districts and special education units. (~~Effective through June 30, 2024~~)**

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

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

21 a. Provide unduplicated grade level services; or

22 b. Share administrative personnel.

23 3. If any school district receiving payments under this chapter or any special education  
24 unit cooperates with another school district or special education unit to jointly employ

1            ~~both~~ a superintendent ~~and~~or a school district business manager or to jointly employ  
2            ~~both~~ a special education unit director ~~and~~or a special education unit business  
3            manager, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide partial reimbursement  
4            of the ~~combined salaries~~salary of the superintendent ~~and~~or the school district business  
5            manager or partial reimbursement of the ~~combined salaries~~salary of the special  
6            education unit director ~~and~~or the special education unit business manager as follows:

7            a.    If the ~~combined salaries exceed three~~salary exceeds two hundred thousand  
8            dollars, the amount of the reimbursement must be calculated based upon  
9            ~~three~~two hundred thousand dollars. Each cooperating school district or special  
10           education unit shall receive a prorated share of the reimbursement percentages  
11           listed below based on the percentage of full-time equivalency that the  
12           superintendent ~~and~~or school district business manager or the special education  
13           unit director ~~and~~or special education unit business manager are employed by  
14           each district or special education unit. The percentage of reimbursement for the  
15           ~~combined salaries~~salary of the jointly hired superintendent ~~and~~or school district  
16           business manager or of the jointly hired special education unit director ~~and~~or  
17           special education unit business manager must be as follows:

- 18           (1)    If two schools or special education units are cooperating, ten percent of the  
19           ~~combined salaries~~salary;
- 20           (2)    If three schools or special education units are cooperating, fifteen percent of  
21           the ~~combined salaries~~salary;
- 22           (3)    If four schools or special education units are cooperating, twenty percent of  
23           the ~~combined salaries~~salary; and
- 24           (4)    If five or more schools or special education units are cooperating,  
25           twenty-five percent of the ~~combined salaries~~salary.

26           b.    To be eligible for reimbursement under this subsection, the cooperating school  
27           districts or special education units must:

- 28           (1)    Have been approved by the superintendent of public instruction and have  
29           implemented their administrative cost-sharing program after June 30, 2022;  
30           and

- 1                   (2) Submit the ~~salariessalary~~ of the superintendent ~~and~~or school district  
2                   business manager or the ~~salariessalary~~ of the special education unit director  
3                   ~~and~~or special education unit business manager to the superintendent of  
4                   public instruction by June first of each year.

5                   **~~Per student payments – Cooperating districts. (Effective after June 30, 2024)~~**

- 6                   1. ~~If any school district receiving payments under this chapter cooperates with another~~  
7                   ~~school district for the joint provision of educational services under a plan approved by~~  
8                   ~~the superintendent of public instruction, the superintendent of public instruction shall,~~  
9                   ~~notwithstanding the provisions of section 15.1-27-03.2, create and assign a separate~~  
10                  ~~weighting factor that allows the cooperating districts to receive, for a period of four~~  
11                  ~~years, a payment rate equivalent to that which each district would have received had~~  
12                  ~~the cooperative plan not taken effect. The superintendent of public instruction shall~~  
13                  ~~compute the separate weighting factor to four decimal places and that weighting factor~~  
14                  ~~is effective for the duration of the cooperative plan.~~
- 15                  2. ~~A school district that is cooperating with another school district under a cooperative~~  
16                  ~~plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction, and which has taxable~~  
17                  ~~property located in the same city as the other school district under the cooperative~~  
18                  ~~plan, may not be required as part of the cooperative plan to:~~
- 19                  a. ~~Provide unduplicated grade level services; or~~
- 20                  b. ~~Share administrative personnel.~~