

## ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION - OVERVIEW

### PER STUDENT, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PAYMENTS, AND TRANSPORTATION AID

The Legislative Assembly provided a general fund appropriation of \$517,553,759 for per student, limited English proficiency, and transportation aid payments, an increase of \$28,173,769, or 5.8 percent, from the 2003-05 appropriation of \$489,379,990. The per student payment amounts are \$2,765 the first year of the biennium and \$2,879 the second year, which compares to past payment levels as follows:

Fiscal Year	Appropriated Per Student Payment	Increase From Prior Year	Percentage Increase From Prior Year
1997-98	\$1,954	\$92	4.9%
1998-99	\$2,032	\$78	4.0%
1999-2000	\$2,145	\$113	5.6%
2000-01	\$2,230	\$85	4.0%
2001-02	\$2,287	\$57	2.6%
2002-03	\$2,347	\$60	2.6%
2003-04	\$2,509	\$162	6.9%
2004-05	\$2,623	\$114	4.5%
2005-06	\$2,765	\$142	5.4%
2006-07	\$2,879	\$114	4.1%

### TUITION FUND

The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$71,600,000 from the state tuition fund for distribution to school districts during the 2005-07 biennium, an increase of \$2,104,629, or 3 percent, from the 2003-05 appropriation of \$69,495,371. The appropriation will provide payments of approximately \$351 per census unit, an increase of \$16, or 4.8 percent, from the 2003-04 and 2004-05 appropriated payment of \$335.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$52,500,000 for general fund special education grants, an increase of \$2,601,305, or 5.2 percent, from the 2003-05 appropriation of \$49,898,695. Section 9 of 2005 House Bill No. 1013 provides that the special education appropriation be distributed as follows:

1. \$15.5 million to reimburse school districts or special education units for excess costs incurred relating to contracts for students with disabilities (\$2.5 million more than the amount appropriated for the 2003-05 biennium).

2. \$400,000 to reimburse school districts or special education units for gifted and talented programs (no change from the amount appropriated for the 2003-05 biennium).
3. \$36.6 million distributed on a per student basis as required by North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 15.1-27-10 (\$101,305 more than the amount appropriated for the 2003-05 biennium).

### TEACHER COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

The Legislative Assembly provided a general fund appropriation of \$50,912,120 to continue the current level of teacher compensation payments of \$1,000 for first-year teachers and \$3,000 for other teachers. The 2005-07 appropriation is a decrease of \$941,880 from the 2003-05 biennium appropriation of \$51,854,000. Section 30 of House Bill No. 1154 requires each school district to use an amount equal to at least 70 percent of all new money received for per student payments and tuition apportionment for the purpose of increasing the compensation paid to teachers. School districts may be exempted from the requirement if the board of the school district determines by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members that complying with the provisions would place the school district in the position of having insufficient fiscal resources to meet its other obligations.

### OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

The legislative appropriation also provides the following:

1. **Revenue supplement payments** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$5 million from the general fund for supplemental payments to school districts pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-27-11, the same amount appropriated for the 2003-05 biennium.
2. **Reorganization bonus payments** - The Legislative Assembly provided a general fund appropriation of \$759,000 for reorganization bonus payments pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-12-11.1, an increase of \$259,000 compared to the 2003-05 biennium appropriation of \$500,000.
3. **Joint powers agreement incentives** - The Legislative Assembly provided a \$1 million general fund appropriation for providing payments to school districts that are members of eligible educational associations.

4. **Contingent distributions - Per student payments and transportation aid** - The Legislative Assembly (House Bill No. 1154) provided for the following contingent distributions if any amount appropriated for per student and transportation state aid remains unspent at the end of the 2005-07 biennium:
- a. The first \$759,000 to the general fund.
  - b. The next \$450,000 for providing additional payments to school districts serving English language learners in accordance with NDCC Section 15.1-27-12.
  - c. The next \$1 million for providing additional per student payments to school districts participating in eligible educational associations.

- d. Any remaining amount as additional per student payments on a prorated basis according to the latest average daily membership of each school district.
5. **Contingent distributions - Teacher compensation payments** - The Legislative Assembly (House Bill No. 1154) provided that if any funds appropriated for teacher compensation payments for the 2005-07 biennium remain unspent, the department shall use the remaining funds to provide additional per student payments on a prorated basis according to the latest available average daily membership of each school district.