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This document was written in part by Mr. Ken Howard, Superintendent of the South Hamilton Community School District for distribution to State Executive and Legislative Leaders.

Financing Iowa’s system of primary and secondary public education involves a balance between providing high-quality public education and ***equitable and adequate*** funding. ***The goals of the state school finance formula are to equalize educational opportunity, to provide a good education for all the children of Iowa, to provide property tax relief, to decrease the percentage of school costs paid from property taxes, and to provide reasonable control of school costs.***

Derived from LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

Legal Services Division

BASIC IOWA EDUCATION FINANCE
Updated by

Michael Duster, JD.

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**Where is the educational equality Iowa has historical strived to achieve?**

In my opinion, the following is one telling example of the state’s recent history to discount its stated goal of providing equitable educational opportunities to all Iowa public school students.

Iowa’s Teacher Leadership Compensation system, which is being phased in over three years, began with 39 districts, with about one-third of enrollment in 2014/15. In 2015/16, 76 districts will be added, with the final group of districts implementing in 2016/17.

Thus, 39 LEAs plus 76 LEAs equates to approximately 115 school districts will be participating in the program beginning with the FY16 fiscal year. The Governor’s recommended increase in funding for this initiative is $50 million for the FY16 budget...*thus, the school districts that have the resources and internal staff to prepare, submit, and the local district’s TLC application eventually deemed as worthy of the funding will divvy up the TLC restricted $50 million in funds.*  ***This equates to about $434,782 per TLC district…earmarked for teachers only.*** **The other 225 schools will receive ZERO!!!**

Therefore, to count any of the remaining schools in this portion of the overall school funding increase for FY16 is a fallacy!

Recently, Governor’s office endorsed an increase in State Supplemental Aid of $50,000,000 for the same time period. The targeted state support, along with the foreseeable local levy escalations, is intended to cover further increases teacher salaries, pay all other district staff wages, transportation costs, heating and cooling, repairs, additional resources, rising instructional expenditures, and more. The State Supplemental Aid would be divided up by all of the roughly 340 LEAs across the state of Iowa. If one considers the proposed SSA increase and apportions it by the 340 school district…the costs is in the neighborhood of $147,058 per LEA…including the districts fortunate enough to receive the TLC financial support.

And finally…

As noted in the following chart the impact on the South Hamilton CSD of a 1.25% and 2.45% for FY16 and FY17 would be devastating….

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