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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 18, 2019



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE — DECEMBER 2019

**Meeting.** The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) met on December 17, 2019.

**Transportation Assistance.** The SBRC approved the distribution of \$14,200 in transportation assistance funds to 14 school districts. Funding comes from the sale of specialty education license plates.

**Supplementary Weighting.** The SBRC approved supplementary weightings for school districts for the 2019-2020 school year. The weightings will be included in the FY 2021 School Budget Aid and Levy.

**Excess Limited English Proficiency Costs.** The SBRC approved all eligible districts, except Waterloo Community School District, making a request for a Modified Supplemental Amount (MSA). Waterloo School District's request will be addressed at a future SBRC meeting.

**Special Education Balances.** The SBRC approved two items for special education balances:

- Approval that no deductions be made from school district budgets for excess special education support services fund balances in the AEAs due to no balances exceeding 10.0%.
- Approval for all districts requesting an MSA for excess special education costs for FY 2019. The total being requested by districts is estimated to be \$143.0 million, an increase of \$16.6 million from FY 2018.

**Special Education Weightings.** Every two years the SBRC has the authority to alter the three levels of special education weightings under Iowa Code section [256B.9](#). The last time the SBRC changed the weighting levels was in FY 2003. The SBRC approved the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Education (DE) to not change the special education weighting levels.

**Various School Districts.** The SBRC approved several MSAs for school districts for hazard abatement requests. Additional information on each district and other board actions will be available at the [School Budget Review Committee Hearing Information](#) page.

**Mormon Trail Community School District.** The SBRC approved the recommendation of the Certificate of Need Task Force and approved a certificate of need (CON) for the Mormon Trail Community School District to use its Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) receipts and balances for \$2.1 million to construct an addition onto the current elementary building in order to provide PK-12 on one campus. Under Iowa Code section [423F.3](#), school districts with a total enrollment of fewer than 250 students, or a high school enrollment of fewer than 100 students must apply for a CON from the Department for expenditure of SAVE funds for new construction.

**Green Hills Area Education Agency (AEA).** The SBRC approved the corrective action plan provided by the AEA to prevent late filings for financial reports by the date(s) prescribed by the DE.

**Bettendorf Community School District.** The SBRC tabled a request by the school district to transfer \$312,000 from the district's general fund and approve an MSA for costs contributing to the construction of a new school building until the next SBRC meeting.

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**North Scott Community School District.** The SBRC approved the transfer of \$229,400 from the school district's general fund to the district's Student Construction Enterprise Fund and approved the MSA up to the amount of \$229,400.

**South Hamilton Community School District.** The SBRC approved the corrective action plan provided by the district due to the district's negative unspent balance for FY 2019, and approved an MSA in the amount of \$207,300.

**Davenport Community School District.** The SBRC received the corrective action by the school district due to the negative unspent balance for FY 2019. The district has maintained a negative unspent balance for the last four fiscal years. Under the district's two-year plan, the district will not have a positive unspent balance until FY 2021. The SBRC tabled the district's request for an MSA in the amount of \$13.4 million until the next SBRC meeting.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the SBRC will be held on January 28, 2020.

LSA Staff Contact: Michael Guanci (515.725.1286) [michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov)

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