
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 5, 2020



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SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE — JUNE 2020

Meeting. The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) held a virtual emergency work session on June 2, 2020, and discussed the following items.

COVID-19 Situation Overview. The Director of the Department of Education, Dr. Ann Lebo, discussed the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the Department is helping school districts navigate the issues concerning the pandemic, including the [Return-to-Learn](#) plan.

Potential District Hearing Eligibility. Educational Program Consultant Kassandra Cline from the Department of Education provided other contextual considerations for the Committee to consider, including noting that more districts may end the year with a negative unspent balance and that relief funds are not anticipated to cover all costs. The Department also discussed pandemic-related reasons why districts may appear before the Committee, including for additional costs or for regular costs with interrupted revenue sources.

SBRC Authority. The Department reiterated the authority the SBRC has in granting a modified supplemental amount (MSA) to a school district under Iowa Code sections [257.31](#) and [24.22](#). The Department noted that some districts have inquired about transfers from their general fund to a capital projects fund or transfers from their management fund to their general fund, neither of which the SBRC has the authority to grant.

COVID-19-Related Revenue. The Department identified potential COVID-19-related revenue funds including:

- CARES Act: Title funds carryforward
- USDA funds
- DHS funds
- FEMA funds
- Other federal funds
- Other local grants awarded
- Other local donations
- Other sources

Potential District Hearings/Examples. The Department identified the types of hearings the SBRC may act upon for an MSA, funds transfer, or both, including individual district hearings and group action hearings.

District Exhibit Content. The Department discussed what the exhibits may look like, including the cover letter, assurances, and the locally developed documentation.

Discussion. SBRC members discussed the Department and district responses to the pandemic and how the SBRC should respond to MSA and funds transfer requests, including a potential lower documentation threshold for funds transfers compared to MSAs.

Next Meeting. The next scheduled SBRC meeting is October 13, 2020.

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