



Summary – School Finance Bill – SB17-296

Introduced – April 19, 2017

Amended Senate Education – April 27, 2017
Amended Senate Appropriations – May 3, 2017
Amended 2nd Reading in Senate – May 5, 2017
Amended House Education – May 8, 2017
Amended House Appropriations – May 8, 2017
Amended 2nd Reading in House – May 8, 2017
Amended 3rd Reading in House – May 10, 2017

CONCERNING FINANCING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By summarizing the language in the bill, this does not alter the statutory language nor should it be considered legal advice in any way. For detailed language, please see the applicable section within the bill.

ISSUE—FINANCE FORMULA

Section 1

Calculates statewide base per pupil funding for 2017-18 to add inflation of 2.8%

Base per pupil funding – 2016-17	\$6,367.90
Add 2.8% inflation	178.30
Base per pupil funding – 2017-18	\$6,546.20

The bill increases the negative factor by \$48.8 million to \$877.4 million maintains the negative factor at \$828.3 million and proposes Total Program Funding after application of the negative factor is not less than ~~\$6,585,800,182~~ \$6,634,600,182. The bill requires budget stabilization factor to remain at \$828.3 million for FY 2018-19.

Sections 2, 3, and 8

The bill requires that school districts share revenue from mill levy overrides with charter schools. Districts are required to calculate a per pupil mill levy share based on override revenue and the district's funded pupil count, and distribute 100 percent of the per pupil share for each charter school student enrolled in schools authorized by the district. The bill exempts override revenue from mills that a growing district may levy for capital construction, and mills any district may levy for bonded debt. The bill creates the Mill Levy Equalization Fund to facilitate distribution of the money appropriated or transferred to the fund to institute charter schools on an equal per pupil basis. The bill includes an appropriation clause for this section.

Section 24

Beginning in FY 2017-18, the bill allows the State Board of Education to provide supplemental assistance payments from the contingency reserve fund in cases where a new school or new or expanding program results in a 20 percent or



~~greater increase in the number of pupils. The district is required to reimburse the state for such assistance following the mid-year state equal adjustment.~~

Sections 5, 10

The bill creates a grant program in CDE for eligible teachers who wish to pursue additional postsecondary education in order to provide computer science education to public school students.

Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12

~~The bill adjusts the funding sources for Total Program Funding, offsetting general funds with a combination of funding from the marijuana tax cash fund and the state education fund. Funding from the marijuana tax cash fund is made available through reductions to two current programs: the school health professionals grant program and for affordable housing construction grants and loans.~~

Sections 2, 3 and 4

The bill changes the term "negative factor" to the term ~~"budget adjustment"~~ "budget stabilization factor".

Sections 6, 7, and 8

The bill allows teachers at public schools and institutions of higher education to sign a written pledge to uphold the constitution of the United States and State of Colorado in addition to an administered oath.

Sections 10, 11, 12, 13 and 18

~~The bill requires that school districts with a charter school or designated as a district of innovation either allocate 95 percent of mill levy override revenues to charter and innovation schools based on per pupil override calculation or do so according to a distribution plan they have developed.~~

Sections 14, 15, 16, and 17

~~The bill requires innovation districts and charter schools to post a list of waivers they have received from the State Board of Education beginning July 1, 2017. For waivers that are not automatic, the district or school must also explain how they intend to meet the intent of the waiver. Beginning July 1, 2018, charter schools must post a standardized description and rationale for all automatic waivers it invokes, and contact information who can provide additional information regarding these waivers.~~

Sections 9

The bill amends the school finance study required by HB 17-1340 to ensure that additional mill levies for operating purposes complies with constitutional requirements for a uniform statewide educational system.