

Meeting Takeaways and Recommendations

Students with Disabilities and Gifted Subcommittee

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Date:	December 7, 2021	Time:	1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Location:	Microsoft TEAMS – Click here to join the meeting		
Chair:	Brad Turner		
Members in Attendance:	Brad Turner Carol Westlake Lori Smith Stephen Smith Sandra Edwards David Martin Lynette Porter Jennifer Aprea LeAnn Simmerman Mandy Fisher Anna Thornsen Wendy Tucker Senator Bill Powers Representative Sam Whitson		
	*Member names in bold indicate those present for this meeting.		

2. DIRECTIONS

Topic

Tennessee Funding Review Engagement

Please list specific resources that you would like to see incorporated into the funding formula. (In other words, what resources do you think are most important so that the cost of those resources can be included. It does not mean a district **MUST** spend money in a certain way, only that they would be funded to do so). Please indicate whether each resource is a:

- **Must Have:** Those resources required as a result of federal and/or state law, for safety, or similar.
- **Should Have:** Those resources that may not be mandatory but are essential to ensure the student or student group receives access to a quality education.
- **Nice to Have:** Those resources that are not mandatory and not essential, but (1) may provide a clear and added benefit to students and (2) have a clear return on the investment related to student achievement and future success.
- **Long Shot:** All other resource ideas.

For each resource, please assign a cost to the resource, if you have it. Subcommittees may assign those amounts, but please also know that resource values will also be reviewed with additional input submitted by LEAs, national experts, and research.

Public Feedback Comments

	Subcommittee Comments
Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • •
Weights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • •
Direct Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Tennessee Funding Review Engagement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • •
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • •

Resource Feedback

MUST HAVE

Some overall agreement on the following:

- **Base**
 - Additional paraprofessionals/educational assistance and increase in pay
 - RTI
 - Fully staffed schools and increased pay
 - School psychologists - agree with the nationally recommended ratio but would add funding for training to understand dyslexia
- **Weights**
 - Funding students identified with dyslexia in the early grades so support and intervention is provided early and isn't needed later
 - Students with Disabilities (with tiers based on the cost to provide services)
- **Additional Funding**
 - Funds to support additional endorsements for high need areas
- **Outcomes**

Tennessee Funding Review Engagement

Add speech language therapists and audiologists to the meeting #2 brainstormed list
Funding support for access to high-level course work for areas, such as rural or high poverty, that are unable to provide at the same level as some others

SHOULD HAVE

NICE TO HAVE

LONG SHOT

4. FINAL THOUGHTS

No bonus or performance pay based on student performance or outcomes on assessments. Some students are focused on IEP goals rather than assessment outcomes and this “incentive” puts these students at a disadvantage. Differentiated pay should be based on needs of district.

There are disabilities and, of course, gifted students that do not have IEPs that would not receive funds based on weighting. This is concerning because additional funds are needed to meet the needs of these students.