

# Commission on School Funding

Senate Bill 543 Implementation Update

November 14, 2019

This document provides a summary status update regarding the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 543. All parenthetical references denote sections of SB 543.

## Important Dates

| Date                       | Item   |
|----------------------------|--|
| On or before May 15, 2020  | School districts submit to the Commission on School Funding (Commission) projections of their budgets for the 2019-21 biennium as if the provisions of SB 543 were in effect as compared to their projected budgets for the same period under existing law (§76.2) |
| On or before July 15, 2020 | Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for any changes that the Commission determines to be necessary for the successful implementation of SB 543 (§76.3)  |
| July 1, 2021               | Sections of SB 543 related to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan go into effect (§81.2)   |

## Progress Highlights

*First Meeting: September 27, 2019*

- The Commission on School Funding (Commission) elected Guy Hobbs to serve as Vice Chair.
- Deputy Superintendent Heidi Haartz presented an overview of the responsibilities of the Commission, Department of Education, districts, schools, and others to support the implementation of SB 543 and the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan.
- Two Work Groups were been identified based on the key responsibilities and deliverables outlined in SB 543:
  - The Formula and Distribution Work Group's charge includes reviewing base funding, the weights for categories of pupils, cost adjustment factors, and the distribution processes (§11.1(a)(c)(e))
    - Dr. David Jensen as the lead and Vice Chair Hobbs and members Paul Johnson, Mark Mathers, and Punam Mathur
  - The Reporting and Monitoring Work Group's charge includes identifying the evidence required to monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) and determining the recommendations, within the limits of appropriated funding, to improve or correct any deficiencies of the Department or any school district or public school in carrying out the PCFP (§11.1(b))
    - Jim McIntosh as the lead and members Dusty Casey, A.J. Feuling, Jason Goudie, and Lisa Morris Hibbler

*Second Meeting: October 11, 2019*

- Both Work Groups met to begin developing project plans to guide their work and ensure they are positioned to make timely recommendations and reports to the full membership of the Commission to meet the deadlines outlined in SB 543.
- The Commission reviewed and formed consensus around core constructs for their work based on guiding principles and optimal criteria for public school funding models as discussed in existing research.

- Deputy Superintendent Heidi Haartz presented key terms in SB 543 and discussed some of the guardrails around what is and is not in the Commission’s purview.

*Meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC): October 24, 2019*

- Deputy Superintendent Heidi Haartz appeared before the IFC to request \$900,000 to contract with subject matter experts to assist the Commission and Department:
  - \$200,000 each to Applied Analysis, APA Consulting, and WestEd; and
  - \$300,000 for a change management consultant to support implementation of the new funding model both internally and externally.

*Third Meeting: November 1, 2019*

- Jeremy Aguero of Applied Analysis, Justin Silverstein of APA Consulting, and Deputy Superintendent Heidi Haartz conducted informational presentations to answer questions that were raised by the Commission Members.

*Meeting of the Board of Examiners (BOE): November 12, 2019*

- The BOE approved contracts for subject matter experts Applied Analysis, APA Consulting, and WestEd to support the work of the Department and Commission in carrying out the requirements of SB 543.

## **Staffing Update**

The Interim Finance Committee approved funding for two full-time positions to provide professional staff support for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the new funding formula. One of these positions was filled on October 14, 2019 and the second position was filled on November 11, 2019.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

- November 14-15, 2019
- December 19-20, 2019
- January 9-10, 2020
- February 20-21, 2020
- March 19-20, 2020
- April 16-17, 2020
- May 14-15, 2020
- June 11-12, 2020