



AUGENBLICK,
PALAICH AND
ASSOCIATES

Attendance Area Size Adjustment

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Today's Presentation

- Recap of draft criteria
- Update on district feedback
- Recommendation for review/appeal process

Draft Attendance Area Criteria

At the last meeting, the Commission approved the following draft criteria to determine attendance areas for funding purposes based upon (1) distance, (2) travel time, and (3) extenuating circumstances

Be separated by more than 20 miles from another attendance area

If less than 20 miles from another attendance area, attendance area must be more than a 30- minute drive away from a district's central office

If attendance area is less than a 30-minute drive, must have extenuating circumstances that necessitate a separate attendance area, subject to approval

District Feedback Process

- With a draft definition approved, we:
 - Identified the list of attendance areas that are under review to determine if they should be considered a separate attendance area for funding purposes
 - Shared list with districts to gather feedback and identify any extenuating circumstances
- We have received clarifying questions on methodology and feedback from several districts so far

District Feedback Received

- District feedback about why certain attendance areas are necessary included:
 - Road-related issues: areas being connected only by a single road, road congestion/traffic extending estimated commute times
 - Cost pressures: higher utility costs in an area
 - Staffing difficulties: harder to staff schools in remote settings
 - Transportation: more busing, requiring a dedicated bus depot
 - Potential fiscal impact: concern about ability to continue to operate individual schools in more remote communities that historically have had their own school

Recommendations

- There appear to be extenuating circumstances in a number of attendance areas that likely necessitate them being kept separate for funding purposes
 - Instead of the Commission evaluating each individual attendance areas, NDE should establish a review/appeals process for districts
 - An exemption should be given for extenuating circumstances related to an attendance area being remote or necessarily small
 - Attendance areas should be reviewed at least every other biennium to see if circumstances have changed