

**SECOND ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments****REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1154**

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the Office of Management and Budget)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to educational association board reimbursement; to amend and reenact
3 sections 15.1-06-04, 15.1-06-06, 15.1-07-28, 15.1-09-01, 15.1-12-26, 15.1-12-27, 15.1-12-29,
4 15.1-18-07, 15.1-22-01, 15.1-27-04, 15.1-27-05, 15.1-27-06, 15.1-27-07, 15.1-27-11,
5 15.1-27-15, 15.1-27-35, 15.1-27-37, 15.1-27-39, 15.1-27-40, 15.1-28-03, 15.1-29-03,
6 15.1-29-04, and 15.1-29-12 of the North Dakota Century Code and section 37 of chapter 667 of
7 the 2003 Session Laws, relating to school calendars, school boards, teacher qualifications,
8 school district dissolutions, the school district equalization factor, weighting factors,
9 supplemental payments, isolated schools, and tuition payments; to repeal sections 15.1-09-42,
10 15.1-12-11.1, and 15.1-12-11.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to instructional
11 conferences and reorganization bonus payments; to provide for transportation grants; to
12 provide for contingent payments; to provide for teacher compensation; to provide for a report to
13 the legislative council; to provide an appropriation; to provide an effective date; and to declare
14 an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

16 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.

- 19 1. During each school year, a school district shall provide for a school calendar of at
20 least one hundred eighty days, apportioned as follows:
- 21 a. One hundred seventy-three full days of instruction;
 - 22 b. Three holidays listed in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section
23 15.1-06-02 and selected by the school board in consultation with district
24 teachers;

- 1 c. ~~Two days for the attendance of teachers at the North Dakota education~~
2 ~~association instructional conference; and~~
- 3 ~~e.~~ Up to two full days during which parent-teacher conferences are held or which
4 are deemed by the school board to be compensatory time for parent-teacher
5 conferences held outside regular school hours; and
- 6 d. Two days for professional development activities.
- 7 2. a. In meeting the requirements for two days of professional development
8 activities under subsection 1, a school district may require that its teachers
9 attend the North Dakota education association instructional conference and
10 may pay teachers for attending the conference, provided attendance is
11 verified.
- 12 b. In meeting the requirements for two days of professional development
13 activities under subsection 1, a school district may consider attendance at the
14 North Dakota education association instructional conference to be optional,
15 elect not to pay teachers for attending the instructional conference, and
16 instead direct any resulting savings toward providing alternate professional
17 development opportunities.
- 18 3. A school district may not require the attendance of teachers in school or at any
19 school-sponsored, school-directed, school sanctioned, or school related activities
20 and may not schedule classroom instruction time nor alternate professional
21 development activities on any day that conflicts with the North Dakota education
22 association instructional conference.
- 23 ~~2.~~ 4. A full day of instruction consists of:
- 24 a. At least five and one-half hours for elementary students, during which time
25 the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving
26 curricular instruction; and
- 27 b. At least six hours for high school students, during which time the students are
28 required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.
- 29 ~~3.~~ 5. If a school's calendar provides for an extension of each schoolday beyond the
30 statutorily required minimum number of hours, and if the extensions when
31 aggregated over an entire school year amount to more than eighty-four hours of

1 additional classroom instruction during the school year, the school is exempt from
2 having to make up six hours of instruction time lost as a result of weather-related
3 closure. In order to make up lost classroom instruction time beyond the six hours,
4 the school must extend its normal school calendar day by at least thirty minutes.

5 ~~4.~~ 6. A school that does not qualify under the provisions of subsection 3 must extend its
6 normal schoolday by at least thirty minutes to make up classroom instruction time
7 lost as a result of weather-related closure.

8 ~~5.~~ 7. If because of weather a school must dismiss before completing a full day of
9 instruction, the school is responsible for making up only those hours and portions
10 of an hour between the time of early dismissal and the conclusion of a full day of
11 classroom instruction.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **15.1-06-06. Approval of public and nonpublic schools.** Each public and nonpublic
15 school in this state offering elementary or secondary education to students must be approved
16 by the superintendent of public instruction. Except as otherwise provided by law, the
17 superintendent may not approve a school unless:

18 1. Each classroom teacher ~~holds a valid teaching certificate issued~~ is licensed to
19 teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the
20 education standards and practices board;

21 2. Each classroom teacher is teaching only in those course areas or fields for which
22 the teacher is licensed or for which the teacher has received an exception under
23 section 2 of House Bill No. 1076, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative
24 assembly;

25 3. The students are offered all subjects required by law; ~~and~~

26 ~~3.~~ 4. The school is in compliance with the calendar requirements set forth in section
27 15.1-06-04; and

28 5. The school is in compliance with all local and state health, fire, and safety laws.

29 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15.1-07-28. Educational association - Joint powers agreement - Approval Review**
2 **by superintendent of public instruction - Criteria.** If Before school districts participating in
3 an educational association governed by a joint powers agreements under chapter 54-40.3 wish
4 to agreement may receive reimbursement for expenses any moneys, as provided in section
5 15.1-27-40, the ~~school districts must request that the~~ superintendent of public instruction
6 ~~approve their~~ shall review the joint powers agreement. ~~In order for the superintendent of public~~
7 ~~instruction to approve a joint powers agreement, the superintendent shall determine and~~
8 annually and verify that:

- 9 1. a. The ~~participating~~ school districts ~~are contiguous~~; and
- 10 b. ~~(1) The participating in the agreement have:~~
- 11 a. A combined total land mass of the ~~participating school districts exceeds four~~
12 at least five thousand eight hundred square miles [~~4035995~~ 1502193
13 hectares];
- 14 ~~(2) The~~
- 15 b. A combined total land mass of the ~~participating school districts exceeds two~~
16 at least four thousand five hundred square miles [~~647497~~ 1165494 hectares]
17 and the ~~participating school districts~~ number at least ~~six~~ twelve; ~~or~~
- 18 ~~(3) The~~
- 19 c. A combined total land mass of the ~~participating school districts exceeds two~~
20 at least four thousand five hundred square miles [1035995 hectares] and the
21 ~~total number of~~ have at least three thousand students in average daily
22 membership in the ~~participating school districts exceeds two thousand five~~
23 hundred.
- 24 2. The ~~joint powers agreement provides that a school district contiguous to any~~
25 ~~school district already participating in the joint powers agreement may become a~~
26 ~~participant in the agreement at any time.~~
- 27 3. The ~~joint powers agreement requires that the participating school districts agree to~~
28 ~~maintain a joint operating fund, agree to share administrative functions, or agree to~~
29 ~~implement various common requirements; provided that:~~
- 30 a. If the ~~participating school districts agree to establish a joint operating fund, the~~
31 ~~joint powers agreement must require that during the first school year following~~

1 approval, the participating school districts shall establish a joint operating fund
2 equal to at least two percent of the participating districts' total expenditures for
3 the school year ending on the June thirtieth preceding the date of approval;
4 during the second school year following approval, the participating school
5 districts shall establish a joint operating fund equal to at least four percent of
6 the participating districts' total expenditures for the school year ending on the
7 June thirtieth preceding the date of approval; and during the fifth school year
8 following approval, the participating school districts shall establish a joint
9 operating fund equal to at least six percent of the participating districts' total
10 expenditures for the school year ending on the June thirtieth preceding the
11 date of approval;

12 b. If the participating school districts agree to share administrative functions, the
13 joint powers agreement must require that during the first school year following
14 approval, all of the participating districts shall share in the administration of at
15 least three services; during the third school year following approval, all of the
16 participating districts shall share in the administration of at least five services;
17 and during the fifth school year following approval, all of the participating
18 districts shall share in the administration of at least seven services; and that
19 the list from which the participating districts must select the services to be
20 shared consists of:

- 21 (1) Federal title program management;
- 22 (2) Staff development;
- 23 (3) Special education delivery;
- 24 (4) Curriculum development or delivery;
- 25 (5) Career and technical education delivery;
- 26 (6) Student instructional support;
- 27 (7) Media and technology;
- 28 (8) Business management;
- 29 (9) Distance learning;
- 30 (10) Student counseling;
- 31 (11) Food and nutrition;

- 1 ~~(12) Facility safety and health;~~
2 ~~(13) School accreditation and improvement; and~~
3 ~~(14) Transportation; and~~
4 e. ~~If the participating school districts agree to implement various common~~
5 ~~requirements, the joint powers agreement must require that during the first~~
6 ~~school year following approval, all of the participating districts shall implement~~
7 ~~at least three requirements; during the third school year following approval, all~~
8 ~~of the participating districts shall implement at least six requirements; and~~
9 ~~during the fifth school year following approval, all of the participating districts~~
10 ~~shall implement at least eight requirements; and that the list from which the~~
11 ~~participating districts must select the requirements to be implemented~~
12 ~~consists of:~~
13 ~~(1) A common school calendar;~~
14 ~~(2) A common class schedule;~~
15 ~~(3) A common intranet communication system;~~
16 ~~(4) A common class registration process for grades seven through twelve;~~
17 ~~(5) A common curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten through~~
18 ~~six;~~
19 ~~(6) A common student data system;~~
20 ~~(7) A common school improvement and staff development process;~~
21 ~~(8) Common services, as set forth in a five-year plan;~~
22 ~~(9) A school facilities plan; and~~
23 ~~(10) Joint funding of dual credit and advance placement courses.; or~~
24 d. A combined total land mass of at least one thousand five hundred square
25 miles [388498 hectares] and have at least seven thousand five hundred
26 students in average daily membership.
27 2. The school districts participating in the agreement are contiguous to each other or,
28 if the districts are not contiguous to each other, the superintendent of public
29 instruction shall verify that the participating districts can provide sound educational
30 opportunities to their students in a fiscally responsible manner without injuring
31 other school districts or educational associations governed by joint powers

1 agreements and without negatively impacting the ability of other school districts or
2 educational associations governed by joint powers agreements from providing
3 sound educational opportunities to their students in a fiscally responsible manner.
4 A decision by the superintendent of public instruction under this subsection may be
5 appealed to the state board of public school education. A decision by the state
6 board is final.

7 3. The joint powers agreement requires that the participating school districts maintain
8 a joint operating fund and share various administrative functions and student
9 services in accordance with subsection 4.

10 4. a. During the first two school years in which an educational association
11 governed by a joint powers agreement is operational, each of the participating
12 school districts shall share in at least two administrative functions and two
13 student services, selected by the district.

14 b. During the third and fourth school years in which an educational association
15 governed by a joint powers agreement is operational, each of the participating
16 school districts shall share in at least three administrative functions and three
17 student services, selected by the district.

18 c. During the fifth school year in which an educational association governed by a
19 joint powers agreement is operational, and each year thereafter, each
20 participating school district shall share at least five administrative functions
21 and five student services, selected by the district.

22 d. For purposes of this subsection:

23 (1) "Administrative functions" means:

24 (a) Business management;

25 (b) Career and technical education services management;

26 (c) Curriculum mapping or development;

27 (d) Data analysis;

28 (e) Federal program support;

29 (f) Federal title program management;

30 (g) Grant writing;

31 (h) School improvement;

- 1 (i) School safety and environment management;
- 2 (j) Special education services management;
- 3 (k) Staff development;
- 4 (l) Staff retention and recruitment;
- 5 (m) Staff sharing;
- 6 (n) Technology support; and
- 7 (o) Any other functions approved by the superintendent of public
- 8 instruction.

9 (2) Student services means:

- 10 (a) Advanced placement classes;
- 11 (b) Alternative high schools or alternative high school programs;
- 12 (c) Career and technical education classes;
- 13 (d) Counseling services;
- 14 (e) Common elementary curricula;
- 15 (f) Distance learning classes;
- 16 (g) Dual credit classes;
- 17 (h) Foreign language classes;
- 18 (i) Library and media services;
- 19 (j) Summer programs;
- 20 (k) Supplemental instruction programs; and
- 21 (l) Any other services approved by the superintendent of public
- 22 instruction.

23 e. For purposes of this subsection, if an educational association governed by a
24 joint powers agreement became operational before July 1, 2005, the 2005-06
25 school year must be considered the association's first year of operation.

26 5. The joint powers agreement provides:

- 27 a. Criteria for the future participation of school districts that were not parties to
- 28 the original joint powers agreement;
- 29 b. An application process by which school districts that were not parties to the
- 30 original joint powers agreement can become participating districts; and

- 1 c. A process by which school districts that were not parties to the original joint
2 powers agreement and whose application to participate in the agreement was
3 denied can appeal the decision to the superintendent of public instruction.
- 4 4. ~~6.~~ The joint powers agreement provides for the employment and compensation of a
5 chief administrator and other any staff necessary to carry out the provisions of the
6 agreement and the requirements of this section and section 15.1-27-37 Act.
- 7 7. The joint powers agreement provides for a governing board that consists only of
8 individuals who serve on the boards of the participating school districts or
9 designees of the respective school board members, provided however that a joint
10 powers agreement may allow for the inclusion of ex officio nonvoting members on
11 the educational association's board.
- 12 8. The joint powers agreement provides that the board of the educational association
13 shall meet at least quarterly.
- 14 9. The joint powers agreement does not permit the educational association to
15 compensate members of the educational association board for attending meetings
16 of the board and that it does not permit the educational association to reimburse
17 members of the board for any expenses incurred in attending meetings of the
18 educational association board.

19 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 created and enacted as follows:

21 **Compensation - Reimbursement - Extraordinary service.** The board of an
22 educational association established under section 15.1-07-28 may provide compensation and
23 reimbursement to any board member who, at the direction of the board, performs extraordinary
24 service on behalf of the board. For purposes of this section, "extraordinary service" means
25 duties beyond those reasonably expected of members of the board and includes travel to and
26 attendance at national meetings or conventions.

27 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-09-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **15.1-09-01. School board membership - Size and term adjustments.**

- 30 1. The board of a school district is must be composed of five, seven, or nine
31 members, unless:

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- 1 a. ~~The electors of the district increase the size of the board under this section;~~
2 b. ~~The size of the board was increased under a prior law; or~~
3 e. ~~The board, on July 1, 1971, was composed of more or fewer than five~~
4 ~~members, in which case the number of members must remain unchanged~~
5 ~~unless increased under this section.~~
- 6 2. The size of ~~any~~ a school district board may be increased to either five, seven, or
7 nine members or decreased to seven or five members if a petition is signed by
8 qualified electors of the school district equal in number to at least one-third of
9 those who voted at the most recent annual school district election and the change
10 is approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the school district voting on
11 the question at a special election called for that purpose.
- 12 3. If a majority of the qualified voters in a school district elect to increase the size of
13 the school board, the additional members must be elected to the board at the next
14 annual school district election in the same manner as other board members.
- 15 a. ~~If the total number of board members after approval of the increase is five, the~~
16 ~~terms of two members extend until the first annual election, the terms of two~~
17 ~~members extend until the second annual election, and the term of the~~
18 ~~remaining member extends until the third annual election.~~
- 19 b. ~~If the total number of board members after approval of the increase is seven,~~
20 the terms of three members extend until the first annual election, the terms of
21 two members extend until the second annual election, and the terms of the
22 remaining two members extend until the third annual election.
- 23 e. b. If the total number of board members after approval of the increase is nine,
24 the terms of three members extend until the first annual election, the terms of
25 three members extend until the second annual election, and the terms of the
26 remaining three members extend until the third annual election.
- 27 e. c. The length of the terms specified in this ~~section~~ subsection must be
28 determined by lot.
- 29 e. d. All board members shall serve for the terms specified in this ~~section~~
30 subsection and until their successors are elected and qualified.

- 1 f. ~~e.~~ The length of any term in existence before the increase in board membership
2 and held by a board member who is duly qualified may not be modified.
- 3 ~~g.~~ f. Terms subsequent to the first term are for the normal period of three years
4 and extend until a successor is elected and qualified.
- 5 4. If on July 1, 2005, the board of any school district contains only three members,
6 the board must be increased to five members and the additional members must be
7 elected at the next annual school district election, in the same manner as other
8 board members. The initial term of one additional member must be one year and
9 the initial term of the other additional member must be two years. The length of
10 the terms specified in this subsection must be determined by lot. Thereafter, the
11 size of the board may be increased in accordance with subsections 2 and 3.
- 12 5. The voters of a school district shall elect school board members at large. If,
13 however, the district has been reorganized, board members may be elected at
14 large, by geographical area, or at large by geographical area.
- 15 ~~5.~~ 6. An election on a reorganization proposal takes the place of the petition and
16 election requirements of this section. Approval of the reorganization proposal has
17 the same effect as if the approval were by the election provided for in this section.
- 18 ~~6.~~ 7. If the qualified electors of a district approve a reduction in the size of the school
19 board, the excess number of members will serve out existing terms until the
20 number approved by the electors has been reached.
- 21 ~~7.~~ 8. If the board of a school district has elected to convert its members' terms to four
22 years and has also increased the number of its board members, the board by lot or
23 by some other random selection method shall provide for a combination of initial
24 terms of office not to exceed four years for the new members. The combination
25 must equalize to the greatest extent possible the number and length of terms for
26 old board members and for new members to be elected during the next three
27 election years. The members' terms must be staggered and must expire in
28 even-numbered years.
- 29 ~~8.~~ 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the board of education of the city of
30 Fargo consists of nine members.

1 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-12-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15.1-12-26. Dissolution of school district - Grounds.**

- 4 1. A county committee shall initiate proceedings to dissolve a school district and
5 attach the property to other operating high school districts when it is notified in
6 writing by the county superintendent of schools whose jurisdiction includes the
7 administrative headquarters of the district that:
- 8 a. The district is financially unable to effectively and efficiently educate its
9 students;
 - 10 b. The district has not operated a school as required by section 15.1-12-24; or
 - 11 c. A school board has determined that dissolution is in the best interest of its
12 students.
- 13 2. Except as provided in subsection 3, a county committee shall initiate proceedings
14 under section 15.1-12-27 to attach real property to an operating high school district
15 when it is notified in writing by the county superintendent that:
- 16 a. Real property has been severed from its school district by the expansion of a
17 city and the severed portion is not contiguous with its district; or
 - 18 b. There exists real property that does not belong to a school district.
- 19 3. If a school district reorganization plan which does not include all real property in a
20 district is approved by the electors, the county committee shall, within forty-five
21 days after the election, hold a hearing under section ~~15.1-12-29~~ 15.1-12-27 to
22 attach the remaining property to one or more operating high school districts.
- 23 4. Receipt of notice by a county committee under this section:
- 24 a. Renders an annexation petition involving any real property in the district void,
25 unless the annexation has already been approved by the state board; and
 - 26 b. Prohibits the acceptance of a new annexation petition involving any real
27 property in the district until all dissolution proceedings have been completed.
- 28 5. One or more annexation petitions may not be used to annex all of the real property
29 in a school district to surrounding school districts.

30 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-12-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15.1-12-27. Dissolution of school district - Notice - Hearing - Order of attachment.**

- 2 1. The county superintendent shall schedule and give notice of a public hearing
3 regarding the dissolution of the district and the subsequent attachment of the
4 property to other high school districts. The county superintendent shall publish the
5 notice in the official newspaper of each county that encompasses property in the
6 dissolving district and in the official newspaper of each county that encompasses
7 property in a high school district adjacent to the dissolving district, at least fourteen
8 days before the date of the hearing. The county superintendent shall provide
9 notice of the public hearing to the business manager of each high school district
10 adjacent to the dissolving district.
- 11 2. At the hearing, the board of the dissolving district may propose a particular manner
12 of dissolution.
- 13 3. The county committee shall consider testimony and documentary evidence
14 regarding:
- 15 a. The value and amount of property held by the dissolving school district;
- 16 b. The amount of all outstanding bonded and other indebtedness;
- 17 c. The distribution of property and assets among the high school districts to
18 which the dissolved district is attached;
- 19 d. The taxable valuation of the dissolving district and adjacent high school
20 districts and the taxable valuation of adjacent high school districts under the
21 proposed manner of dissolution;
- 22 e. The size, geographical features, and boundaries of the dissolving district and
23 of adjacent high school districts;
- 24 f. The number of students in the dissolving district and in adjacent high school
25 districts;
- 26 g. The general population of the dissolving district and adjacent high school
27 districts;
- 28 h. Each school in the dissolving district and in adjacent high school districts,
29 including its name, location, condition, accessibility, and the grade levels it
30 offers;

- 1 i. The location and condition of roads, highways, and natural barriers in the
- 2 dissolving district and in adjacent high school districts;
- 3 j. Conditions affecting the welfare of students in the dissolving district and in
- 4 adjacent high school districts;
- 5 k. The boundaries of other governmental entities;
- 6 l. The educational needs of communities in the dissolving district and in
- 7 adjacent high school districts;
- 8 m. Potential savings in school district transportation and administrative services;
- 9 n. The anticipated future use of the dissolving districts' buildings, sites, and
- 10 playfields;
- 11 o. The potential for a reduction in per student valuation disparities between the
- 12 high school districts to which the dissolved district is attached;
- 13 p. The potential to equalize or increase the educational opportunities for
- 14 students from the dissolving district and for students in adjacent high school
- 15 districts; and
- 16 q. All other relevant factors.
- 17 4. After the hearing, the county committee shall make findings of fact. Subject to final
- 18 approval by the state board, the county committee may order the district dissolved
- 19 and its real property attached to one or more contiguous, operating high school
- 20 districts.
- 21 5. Any property ordered attached under this section must have at least one minor
- 22 residing within its boundaries.
- 23 6. The county superintendent shall forward all minutes, records, documentary
- 24 evidence, and other information regarding the dissolution proceeding together with
- 25 a copy of the county committee's order to the state board for final approval of the
- 26 dissolution. The state board shall publish notice of its meeting at which it will
- 27 consider the dissolution, in the official newspapers of the counties required for
- 28 publication under subsection 1, at least fourteen days before the meeting.
- 29 7. The order of dissolution becomes effective July first following approval by the state
- 30 board, unless the county committee provides for a different effective date.

- 1 8. If the boundaries of the dissolving school district cross county lines, the proceeding
2 to dissolve the district must be conducted jointly by the county committees
3 representing counties containing twenty-five percent or more of the dissolving
4 district's taxable valuation. If, after the hearing, a majority of the county
5 committees are unable to agree upon an order of dissolution and attachment, the
6 county superintendent of the county in which the administrative headquarters of
7 the dissolving school district is located shall notify the state board. The state board
8 shall conduct a public hearing, as required in this section, and order the dissolution
9 of the district and the attachment of its real property to adjacent high school
10 districts in the manner it deems appropriate. The state board shall publish notice
11 of the public hearing in the official newspapers of the counties required for
12 publication under subsection 1, at least fourteen days before the date of the
13 hearing.
- 14 9. If any portion of the order providing for the attachment of real property is
15 suspended or voided, the order of dissolution is likewise suspended or voided.

16 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-12-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **15.1-12-29. Dissolution of school district - Unobligated cash balance - Tax credits**
19 **or refunds.**

- 20 1. ~~Any~~ After ten thousand dollars is set aside, as required by section 15.1-12-28, and
21 after the required amount is deposited in the reimbursement account for job
22 service North Dakota, as required by section 15.1-12-28.1, any remaining
23 unobligated cash balance in excess of ten thousand dollars, up to an amount
24 equaling a dissolved school district's general fund expenditure for the last school
25 year before the district's dissolution is a credit for real property owners within the
26 boundaries of the dissolved school district, against taxes levied by the district in to
27 which their property is now situated. The county auditor shall base the credit on
28 the five-year average of the total mills levied for education by the dissolved district
29 attached. If property from the dissolved district is attached to more than one
30 school district, the percentage of the total credit that to which each eligible real
31 property ~~owners receive must be~~ owner is entitled must equal the same

1 percentage ~~of the unobligated cash balance as the~~ that the taxable valuation of the
2 individual's real property bears to the total taxable valuation of the dissolved
3 district's property at the time of the attachment order.

4 2. Upon approval of the board of county commissioners, any school district required
5 to provide a tax credit under subsection 1 may provide a cash refund in lieu of the
6 tax credit. At the request of the county auditor, the school district holding the
7 unobligated cash balance available under subsection 1 shall pay to the county
8 treasurer the amount to be paid to those who own real property within the
9 dissolved district. The treasurer shall issue the refund to the owner of the property
10 as shown on the county's assessment list at the time of payment. If there is a lien
11 for unpaid taxes against the property, the treasurer shall first apply the property
12 owner's tax credit toward any outstanding balance. Any amount remaining may
13 then be paid to the property owner. The cash refunds must be calculated
14 proportionately to the total taxable value of the dissolved district during the last
15 year taxes were levied.

16 3. After the requirements of subsection 1 have been met, the county auditor shall
17 distribute any remaining unobligated cash balance among the school districts to
18 which the real property of the dissolved district was attached. The percentage of
19 the remaining unobligated cash balance to which each school district is entitled
20 equals that percentage of the dissolved district's total taxable valuation which was
21 attached to the receiving school district.

22 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-18-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **15.1-18-07. (Effective after June 30, 2006) Elementary school teacher**
25 **qualifications.**

26 1. In order to teach any grade ~~from one through six~~ in an elementary school that
27 offers grades one through six, or in order to teach any grade in an elementary
28 school that offers grades one through eight, an individual must be licensed:

29 a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or
30 approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and:

31 a. b. (1) Have a major in elementary education; or

- 1 ~~b.~~ (2) Have a major equivalency in elementary education.
- 2 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may teach any grade
- 3 from one through three in an elementary school provided the individual is ~~licensed~~;
- 4 a. Licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or
- 5 approved to teach by the education standards and practices board; and:
- 6 a: b. (1) Has a major in early childhood education; or
- 7 ~~b.~~ (2) Has a major equivalency in early childhood education.
- 8 ~~3.~~ ~~In order to teach any grade from one through eight in a self-contained classroom,~~
- 9 ~~an individual must be licensed to teach by the education standards and practices~~
- 10 ~~board and:~~
- 11 a: ~~Have a major in elementary education; or~~
- 12 b: ~~Have a major equivalency in elementary education.~~

13 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-22-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is

14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **15.1-22-01. Kindergarten - Establishment by board - ~~Petition for establishment~~**

16 **Request by parent - Levy.**

- 17 1. Upon its own motion, the board of a school district may establish a free public
- 18 kindergarten ~~for the instruction during a school year of resident children below~~
- 19 ~~school age.~~
- 20 2. If the board receives a ~~petition signed by qualified electors residing in the district~~
- 21 ~~equal in number to at least twenty percent of those who voted in the most recent~~
- 22 ~~annual school district election, the board must submit the question of establishing~~
- 23 ~~a kindergarten to the electorate at the next annual or special school district~~
- 24 ~~election. The margins of electoral approval provided in section 57-15-14 must be~~
- 25 ~~applied~~ written request to provide kindergarten from the parent of a student who
- 26 will be enrolled in the kindergarten, the board shall either provide at least a
- 27 half-day kindergarten program for the student or pay the tuition required for the
- 28 student to attend at least a half-day kindergarten program in another school
- 29 district.
- 30 3. The board of a school district that establishes a kindergarten under this section
- 31 may levy a tax pursuant to subdivision p of subsection 1 of section 57-15-14.2.

1 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15.1-27-04. Per student payment.** The per student payment to which each school
4 district is entitled for the first year of the biennium is two thousand ~~five~~ seven hundred ~~nine~~
5 sixty-two dollars. The per student payment to which each school district is entitled for the
6 second year of the biennium is two thousand ~~six~~ eight hundred ~~twenty-three~~ seventy-five
7 dollars. The per student amount is the basis for calculating state payments to school districts,
8 as provided in sections 15.1-27-06 and 15.1-27-07.

9 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15.1-27-05. (Effective through June 30, 2008) School district equalization factor.**

- 12 1. To determine the amount of payments due a school district, the superintendent of
13 public instruction shall add the tuition apportionment payments, per student
14 payments, special education aid, transportation aid, and teacher compensation
15 payments for which a school district is eligible and from that total subtract the
16 following:
 - 17 a. The product of ~~thirty-six~~ thirty-eight mills times the taxable valuation of
18 property in the district;
 - 19 b. The amount by which the unobligated general fund balance of the district on
20 the preceding June thirtieth is in excess of fifty percent of its actual
21 expenditures, plus twenty thousand dollars; and
 - 22 c. If the mills levied by the district for general fund purposes, plus the mills levied
23 for high school transportation and high school tuition purposes are fewer than
24 one hundred forty, the number of mills by which the district's levies are below
25 one hundred forty multiplied by the taxable valuation of property in the district.
- 26 2. Beginning July 1, 2006, and each year thereafter, the number of mills used by the
27 superintendent of public instruction in determining the product required by
28 subdivision a of subsection 1 must be increased by ~~two~~ three over the number of
29 mills used in determining the product required by that subdivision the previous
30 year.

31 **(Effective after June 30, 2008) School district equalization factor.**

- 1 1. To determine the amount of payments due a school district, the superintendent of
2 public instruction shall add the tuition apportionment payments, per student
3 payments, special education aid, transportation aid, and teacher compensation
4 payments for which a school district is eligible and from that total subtract the
5 following:
- 6 a. The product of the number of mills prescribed in subsection 2 times the
7 taxable valuation of property in the district;
- 8 b. The amount by which the unobligated general fund balance of the district on
9 the preceding June thirtieth is in excess of forty-five percent of its actual
10 expenditures, plus twenty thousand dollars; and
- 11 c. If the mills levied by the district for general fund purposes, plus the mills levied
12 for high school transportation and high school tuition purposes are fewer than
13 one hundred forty, the number of mills by which the district's levies are below
14 one hundred forty multiplied by the taxable valuation of property in the district.
- 15 2. The number of mills used by the superintendent of public instruction in determining
16 the product required by subdivision a of subsection 1 must be increased by ~~two~~
17 three over the number of mills used in determining the product required by that
18 subdivision the previous year.

19 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **15.1-27-06. Per student payments - Weighting factors - High school students.**

22 The superintendent of public instruction shall make payments each year, as provided for in this
23 section, to each school district operating a high school and to each school district contracting to
24 educate high school students in a federal school, subject to adjustment as provided in section
25 15.1-27-21.

- 26 1. Each district having under ~~seventy-five~~ one hundred twenty students in average
27 daily membership in grades nine through twelve is entitled to receive the amount of
28 money that results from multiplying the factor ~~1.625 adjusted by eighty five percent~~
29 of the difference between ~~1.625 and the factor~~ representing the five-year average
30 cost of education per student for this category, as determined by the
31 superintendent of public instruction, by the number of students in grades nine

- 1 through twelve who are registered in that district, times the per student payment
2 provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1, 2004, the factor is that which~~
3 ~~represents the five-year average cost of education per student in this category, as~~
4 ~~determined by the superintendent of public instruction.~~
- 5 2. Each district having at least ~~seventy-five~~ one hundred twenty but fewer than ~~one~~
6 three hundred fifty students in average daily membership in grades nine through
7 twelve is entitled to receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the
8 factor ~~1.335 adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference between 1.335 and~~
9 ~~the factor~~ representing the five-year average cost of education per student for this
10 category, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number
11 of students in grades nine through twelve who are registered in that district, times
12 the per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1,~~
13 ~~2004, the factor is that which represents the five-year average cost of education~~
14 ~~per student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of public~~
15 ~~instruction.~~
- 16 3. Each district having at least ~~one~~ three hundred fifty but fewer than ~~five hundred~~
17 fifty students in average daily membership in grades nine through twelve is entitled
18 to receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor ~~1.24~~
19 ~~adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference between 1.24 and the factor~~
20 representing the five-year average cost of education per student for this category,
21 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of
22 students in grades nine through twelve who are registered in that district, times the
23 per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1, 2004,~~
24 ~~the factor is that which represents the five-year average cost of education per~~
25 ~~student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.~~
- 26 4. Each district having at least ~~five hundred fifty~~ students in average daily
27 membership in grades nine through twelve is entitled to receive the amount of
28 money that results from multiplying the factor ~~1.14 adjusted by eighty five percent~~
29 ~~of the difference between 1.14 and the factor representing the five-year average~~
30 ~~cost of education per student for this category, as determined by the~~
31 ~~superintendent of public instruction, by the number of students in grades nine~~

1 ~~through twelve who are registered in that district, times the per student payment~~
2 ~~provided for in section 15.1-27-04. Beginning July 1, 2004, the factor is that which~~
3 ~~represents the five-year average cost of education per student in this category, as~~
4 ~~determined by the superintendent of public instruction.~~

5 ~~5.~~ 4. Each district having an approved alternative high school education program is
6 entitled to receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor in:

7 a. Subsection 1 by the number of students registered in the alternative
8 education program, times the per student payment provided for in section
9 15.1-27-04, if fewer than ~~seventy-five~~ one hundred twenty students in
10 average daily membership are enrolled in the alternative education program.

11 b. Subsection 2 by the number of students registered in the alternative
12 education program, times the per student payment provided for in section
13 15.1-27-04, if at least ~~seventy-five~~ one hundred twenty but fewer than ~~one~~
14 three hundred fifty students in average daily membership are enrolled in the
15 alternative education program.

16 c. Subsection 3 by the number of students registered in the alternative
17 education program, times the per student payment provided for in section
18 15.1-27-04, if at least ~~one~~ three hundred fifty but fewer than ~~five hundred fifty~~
19 students in average daily membership are enrolled in the alternative
20 education program.

21 ~~d. Subsection 4 by the number of students registered in the alternative~~
22 ~~education program, times the per student payment provided for in section~~
23 ~~15.1-27-04, if at least five hundred fifty students in average daily membership~~
24 ~~are enrolled in the alternative education program.~~

25 ~~6.~~ 5. In order to be eligible for enumeration under this section, a student:

- 26 a. Must have completed the work of the eighth grade;
27 b. Must not have completed the work of the twelfth grade; and
28 c. Must be a resident of this state or a nonresident attending a school in this
29 state under the auspices of a foreign student exchange program.

30 6. In calculating payments under this section and subsections 1 through 4 of section
31 15.1-27-07, the superintendent of public instruction shall use 1.0 as the factor that

1 represents the lowest five-year average cost of education among all elementary
2 and high school weighting categories other than kindergarten and shall use
3 proportionately increased factors to represent the five-year average cost of
4 education in all remaining weighting categories except kindergarten.

5 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-27-07. Per student payments - Weighting factors - Elementary school**
8 **students.** The superintendent of public instruction shall make payments each year, as
9 provided for in this section, to each school district operating an elementary school and to each
10 school district contracting to educate elementary students in a federal school, subject to
11 adjustment as provided in section 15.1-27-21.

12 ~~1. a. Each district having only a one-room rural school is entitled to receive the~~
13 ~~amount of money that results from multiplying the factor 1.28 adjusted by~~
14 ~~eighty-five percent of the difference between 1.28 and the factor representing~~
15 ~~the five-year average cost of education per student for this category, as~~
16 ~~determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of~~
17 ~~students in average daily membership in grades one through eight in that~~
18 ~~school, times the per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04.~~
19 ~~Beginning July 1, 2004, the factor is that which represents the five-year~~
20 ~~average cost of education per student in this category, as determined by the~~
21 ~~superintendent of public instruction. The payment level provided for in this~~
22 ~~subdivision is applicable only to the first sixteen students.~~

23 ~~b. If the one-room rural school has more than sixteen students in average daily~~
24 ~~membership in grades one through eight, the district in which the school is~~
25 ~~located is entitled to receive ninety percent of the per student payment~~
26 ~~provided for in section 15.1-27-04 for each additional student. The district is~~
27 ~~not entitled to any payment for more than twenty students in average daily~~
28 ~~membership.~~

29 ~~e. If a one-room rural school is located in a district having another elementary~~
30 ~~school, the weighting factor for the students in grades one through six must~~

- 1 ~~be based on the average daily membership in the district in grades one~~
2 ~~through six, as provided in this section.~~
- 3 ~~d. If a one-room rural school is located in a school district with another school~~
4 ~~that has students in grade seven or eight, the weighting factor for the students~~
5 ~~in grade seven or eight must be the same as that provided for in subsection 5.~~
- 6 2. ~~1.~~ Except as provided in subsection 1, each Each school district having fewer than
7 one hundred students in average daily membership in grades one through six is
8 entitled to receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor ~~4.09~~
9 ~~adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference between 1.09 and the factor~~
10 representing the five-year average cost of education per student for this category,
11 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of
12 students in average daily membership in grades one through six in the district,
13 times the per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning~~
14 ~~July 1, 2004, the factor is that which represents the five-year average cost of~~
15 ~~education per student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of~~
16 ~~public instruction. The payment provided for in this subsection is applicable only to~~
17 ~~the first twenty five students in average daily membership per classroom or per~~
18 ~~teacher.~~
- 19 ~~3.~~ 2. Each school district having at least one hundred students ~~but fewer than one~~
20 ~~thousand students~~ in average daily membership in grades one through six is
21 entitled to receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor ~~.905~~
22 ~~adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference between .905 and the factor~~
23 representing the five-year average cost of education per student for this category,
24 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of
25 students in average daily membership in grades one through six in the district,
26 times the per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning~~
27 ~~July 1, 2004, the factor is that which represents the five-year average cost of~~
28 ~~education per student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of~~
29 ~~public instruction. The payment provided for in this subsection is applicable only to~~
30 ~~the first thirty students in average daily membership per classroom or per teacher.~~

- 1 4. ~~Each school district having at least one thousand students in average daily~~
2 ~~membership in grades one through six is entitled to receive the amount of money~~
3 ~~that results from multiplying the factor .95 adjusted by eighty five percent of the~~
4 ~~difference between .95 and the factor representing the five year average cost of~~
5 ~~education per student for this category, as determined by the superintendent of~~
6 ~~public instruction, by the number of students in average daily membership in~~
7 ~~grades one through six in the district, times the per student payment provided for in~~
8 ~~section 15.1-27-04. Beginning July 1, 2004, the factor is that which represents the~~
9 ~~five year average cost of the education per student in this category, as determined~~
10 ~~by the superintendent of public instruction. The payment provided for in this~~
11 ~~subsection is applicable only to the first thirty students in average daily~~
12 ~~membership per classroom or per teacher.~~
- 13 5. 3. Each school district having students in grades seven and eight is entitled to
14 receive the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor ~~1.01~~ adjusted
15 ~~by eighty five percent of the difference between 1.01 and the factor~~ representing
16 the five-year average cost of education per student for this category, as
17 determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of students
18 in average daily membership in grades seven and eight in the district, times the
19 per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1, 2004,~~
20 ~~the factor is that which represents the five year average cost of education per~~
21 ~~student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.~~
22 The payment provided for in this subsection is applicable only to the first thirty
23 students in average daily membership per classroom or per teacher. ~~The~~
24 ~~payments provided for in this subsection are not available for students who attend~~
25 ~~a one room rural school if that school is the only one in the district that offers~~
26 ~~educational services to students in grades seven and eight.~~
- 27 6. 4. Each school district having a special education program approved by the director
28 of special education is entitled to receive, for each student who is enrolled in the
29 program and who is at least three years of age but less than the compulsory age
30 for school attendance, the amount of money that results from multiplying the factor
31 ~~1.01~~ adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference between ~~1.01~~ and the factor

1 representing the five-year average cost of education per student for this category,
2 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, by the number of special
3 education students in average daily membership in the program who are at least
4 three years of age but less than the compulsory age for school attendance, times
5 the per student payment provided for in section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1,~~
6 ~~2004, the factor is that which represents the five-year average cost of education~~
7 ~~per student in this category, as determined by the superintendent of public~~
8 ~~instruction.~~

9 ~~7.~~ 5. a. Each school district operating a kindergarten as provided for in section
10 15.1-22-02 is entitled to receive the amount of money that results from
11 multiplying the factor ~~.50 adjusted by eighty five percent of the difference~~
12 ~~between .50 and the factor~~ representing the five-year average cost of
13 education per student for this category, as determined by the superintendent
14 of public instruction, by the number of kindergarten students in average daily
15 membership in the district, times the per student payment provided for in
16 section 15.1-27-04. ~~Beginning July 1, 2004, the factor is that which~~
17 ~~represents the five-year average cost of education per student in this~~
18 ~~category, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.~~ The
19 payment provided for in this subsection is applicable only to the first
20 twenty-five students in average daily membership per classroom or per
21 teacher.

22 b. In order to receive the full per student payment available under this section, a
23 district must operate a kindergarten program that provides the equivalent of
24 ninety full days of classroom instruction during a twelve-month period. A
25 district is entitled to a prorated payment under this section if it operates a
26 kindergarten program of shorter duration.

27 ~~8.~~ 6. Each school district that educates students who are also enrolled in nonpublic
28 schools is entitled to receive proportionate payments under this section.

29 ~~9.~~ 7. Each school district is entitled to receive as much in total payments for elementary
30 students as it would have received if it had the highest number of students in the
31 next lower category.

1 ~~40.~~ 8. A school district is not entitled to any payments provided for by this chapter unless
2 each teacher employed by the district:

3 a. Holds a teaching license issued by the education standards and practices
4 board; or

5 b. Has been approved to teach by the education standards and practices board.

6 9. In calculating payments under subsections 1 through 4 and under section
7 15.1-27-06, the superintendent of public instruction shall use 1.0 as the factor that
8 represents the lowest five-year average cost of education among the elementary
9 and high school weighting categories other than kindergarten and shall use
10 proportionately increased factors to represent the five-year average cost of
11 education in all remaining weighting categories except kindergarten.

12 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **15.1-27-11. High school districts - Supplemental payments.**

15 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall calculate the average valuation of
16 property per student by dividing the number of students in average daily
17 membership in grades one through twelve in a high school district into the sum of:

18 a. The district's latest available net assessed and equalized taxable valuation of
19 property; plus

20 b. All tuition payments and county ~~and unrestricted federal~~ revenue received by
21 the district, divided by the total of the district's general fund levy, high school
22 transportation levy, and high school tuition levy.

23 2. ~~If the~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall verify that:

24 a. The quotient arrived at under subsection 1 is less than the latest available
25 statewide average taxable valuation per student ~~and if the~~;

26 b. The district's educational expenditure per student is below the most recent
27 available statewide average cost of education per student;

28 c. The district has a general fund levy of at least one hundred eighty mills; and

29 d. The district's unobligated general fund balance on the preceding June thirtieth
30 is not in excess of thirty-five percent of its actual expenditures, plus twenty
31 thousand dollars.

- 1 3. If the superintendent of public instruction determines that the district meets all the
2 requirements of subsection 2, the superintendent of public instruction shall:
- 3 a. Determine the difference between the latest available statewide average
4 taxable valuation per student and the average taxable valuation per student in
5 the high school district;
- 6 b. Multiply the result determined under subdivision a by the number of students
7 in average daily membership in grades one through twelve in the high school
8 district;
- 9 c. Multiply the result determined under subdivision b by the number of general
10 fund mills levied by the district in excess of one hundred fifty, provided that
11 any mills levied by the district which are in excess of two hundred ten may not
12 be used in this calculation; and
- 13 d. Multiply the result determined under subdivision c by a factor calculated by
14 the superintendent of public instruction to result in the expenditure, over the
15 course of the biennium, of the full amount provided for the purpose of this
16 section.
- 17 e- 4. The result of the calculations under this section is the supplemental payment to
18 which a high school district is entitled, in addition to any other amount provided
19 under chapter 15.1-27.

20 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **15.1-27-15. Per student payments - Isolated schools.**

- 23 1. If an elementary school has fewer than fifty students and fifteen percent or more of
24 its students would have to travel beyond a fifteen-mile [24.15-kilometer] radius
25 from their residences in order to attend another school, the weighting factor
26 provided under section 15.1-27-07 must be increased by ~~twenty~~ twenty-five
27 percent ~~for the first fifteen students~~. If the school has fewer than fifteen students,
28 the payment received must be for fifteen students.
- 29 2. If a high school has fewer than thirty-five students and fifteen percent or more of its
30 students would have to travel beyond a twenty-mile [32.2-kilometer] radius from
31 their residences in order to attend another school, the weighting factor provided

1 under section 15.1-27-06 must be increased by ~~twenty~~ twenty-five percent ~~for the~~
2 ~~first twenty students~~. If the school has fewer than twenty students, the payment
3 received must be for twenty students.

4 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-35 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-27-35. Average daily membership - Calculation.** Average daily membership is
7 calculated by adding the total number of days that each student in a given classroom, school,
8 or school district is in attendance during a school calendar and the total number of days that
9 each student in a given classroom, school, or school district is absent during a school calendar,
10 and then dividing the sum by one hundred eighty. For purposes of calculating average daily
11 membership, all students are deemed to be in attendance on:

- 12 1. The three holidays listed in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section
13 15.1-06-02 and selected by the school board in consultation with district teachers;
- 14 2. The two days set aside for ~~the attendance of teachers at the North Dakota~~
15 ~~education association instructional conference~~ professional development activities
16 under section 15.1-06-04; and
- 17 3. The two full days, or portions thereof, during which parent-teacher conferences are
18 held or which are deemed by the board of the district to be compensatory time for
19 parent-teacher conferences held outside regular school hours.

20 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **15.1-27-37. Compensation of teachers - Claim for reimbursement - Rules.**

- 23 1. On or before October first of each year or within thirty days after the conclusion of
24 the negotiation process provided for in chapter 15.1-16, the board of a school
25 district may file a claim with the superintendent of public instruction for the
26 reimbursement of moneys to be expended by the district during the school year to
27 at least maintain the level of compensation provided to teachers employed by the
28 district during the ~~2002-03~~ preceding school year.
- 29 2. The claim must include:
 - 30 a. The number of full-time equivalent teachers employed by the district as of
31 September fifteenth of the current school year;

- 1 b. The number of full-time equivalent teachers whose level of compensation will
2 be at least equal to that provided during the ~~2002-03~~ preceding school year;
3 and
4 c. The total amount of any compensation increases provided to full-time
5 equivalent teachers over the level of compensation provided during the
6 ~~2002-03~~ preceding school year.
- 7 3. a. ~~For the 2003-04 school year, the~~ The reimbursement provided for in this
8 section may not exceed three thousand dollars multiplied by the number of
9 full-time equivalent teachers employed by the district as of September 15,
10 ~~2003.~~
11 b. ~~For the 2004-05 school year, the reimbursement provided for in this section~~
12 ~~may not exceed three thousand dollars multiplied by the number of full-time~~
13 ~~equivalent teachers employed by the district as of September 15, 2004.~~
14 e. ~~For the 2003-04 school year, the~~ fifteenth of the current school year.
15 b. The reimbursement under this section for each individual employed as of
16 September 15, ~~2003~~ fifteenth of the current school year, as a full-time
17 equivalent teacher for the first school year since becoming licensed to teach
18 by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the
19 education standards and practices board, may not exceed one thousand
20 dollars.
21 d. ~~For the 2004-05 school year, the reimbursement under this section for each~~
22 ~~individual employed as of September 15, 2004, as a full-time equivalent~~
23 ~~teacher for the first school year since becoming licensed to teach by the~~
24 ~~education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the~~
25 ~~education standards and practices board, may not exceed one thousand~~
26 ~~dollars.~~
- 27 4. For purposes of this section, the claim of a district may include proportionate
28 expenditures made by the district to compensate individuals employed as teachers
29 by the special education unit or the area career and technology center to which the
30 district belongs.

1 5. The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules regarding claims for and
2 the payment of reimbursements under this section.

3 **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-39 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **15.1-27-39. Annual salary - Minimum amount.**

6 1. Beginning with the ~~2003-04~~ 2005-06 school year, the board of each school district
7 shall provide to each full-time teacher, under contract for a period of nine months,
8 a minimum salary level for the contract period equal to at least ~~twenty-one~~
9 twenty-two thousand dollars.

10 2. Beginning with the ~~2004-05~~ 2006-07 school year, the board of each school district
11 shall provide to each full-time teacher, under contract for a period of nine months,
12 a minimum salary level for the contract period equal to at least ~~twenty-one~~
13 twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars.

14 **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-27-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15.1-27-40. Approved joint powers agreement - Reimbursement by**
17 **~~superintendent of public instruction~~ Report of expenses.**

18 1. ~~The individual employed as a chief administrator for the purpose of carrying out the~~
19 ~~provisions of a joint powers agreement and any requirements under section~~
20 ~~15.1-07-27 shall~~ executive director of an educational association governed by a
21 joint powers agreement which the superintendent of public instruction has verified
22 as meeting the requirements of section 15.1-07-28 shall annually submit to the
23 superintendent of public instruction, at the time and in the manner designated by
24 the superintendent, receipts for expenses incurred during a school year in
25 delivering services and programs under section 15.1-07-27.

26 2. ~~The superintendent of public instruction, upon verifying the receipts, shall~~
27 ~~reimburse the chief administrator of the joint powers agreement for any expenses~~
28 ~~incurred in delivering services and programs under the auspices of the joint~~
29 ~~powers agreement as provided in section 15.1-07-27. The reimbursement may not~~
30 ~~exceed the lesser of:~~

- 1 a. ~~The total expenses incurred in delivering services and programs under~~
2 ~~section 15.1-07-27; or~~
3 b. ~~Fifty thousand dollars.~~
- 4 ~~3.~~ The chief administrator a report detailing all expenses incurred by the educational
5 association and shall attribute the expenses on a per student basis by participating
6 school district.
- 7 2. The executive director shall deposit any moneys received under subsection 2 in
8 the participating districts' by or on behalf of the association into the educational
9 association's joint operating fund.
- 10 ~~4.~~ ~~The superintendent of public instruction may not provide any reimbursement to a~~
11 ~~chief administrator under this section unless the joint powers agreement under~~
12 ~~which the services and programs are delivered has been approved by the~~
13 ~~superintendent.~~

14 **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-28-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15.1-28-03. State tuition fund - Apportionment - Payment.** On or before the third
17 Monday in each January, February, March, April, August, September, October, November, and
18 December, the office of management and budget shall certify to the superintendent of public
19 instruction the amount of the state tuition fund. The superintendent shall apportion the fund
20 among the school districts of the state in proportion to the number of school-age children
21 residing in each district, as shown by the latest enumeration provided for by law and pay the
22 amount apportioned to each school district. The superintendent shall make the payments
23 required by this section at the same time as the per student payments required under chapter
24 15.1-27.

25 **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-29-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **15.1-29-03. Education of students in other districts - Payment of tuition and**
28 **transportation.**

- 29 1. After taking into account the best interests of all affected parties, the board of a
30 school district may elect to send its students to another school district. In this
31 instance, the board ~~may~~ shall pay for the students' tuition for the students and

1 transportation. The board may arrange, and when petitioned to do so by qualified
2 electors of the district equal in number to at least a majority of those who voted in
3 the most recent annual school district election shall arrange, with other boards to
4 send students to the other districts and to pay for their tuition and transportation.

5 2. If a district does not provide educational services to an entire grade level, the
6 students in that grade level may attend a public school of their choice outside their
7 district of residence without going through the procedures outlined in section
8 15.1-29-05. The board of the students' school district of residence shall pay for the
9 students' tuition ~~to the admitting district and transportation~~. For purposes of
10 determining whether educational services are provided to an entire grade level,
11 districts cooperating with each other in the joint provision of educational services
12 under a plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction are considered
13 to be a single district.

14 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-29-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15.1-29-04. Payment of tuition and transportation by sending districts - Interest**
17 **on late payments.** ~~If a school board approves the payment of~~ the board of a school district
18 agrees to pay tuition ~~for a student attending school in another district or if a district under this~~
19 chapter, if it is required to make pay tuition payments ~~under the provisions of this chapter, or if~~
20 it is required to pay tuition and transportation under this chapter, the board of the sending
21 district shall pay at least fifty percent of the annual tuition charge to the admitting district on or
22 before December thirty-first and any remaining amount on or before May thirty-first. If payment
23 is not received by the admitting district within thirty days after the date on which payment is
24 due, simple interest at the rate of six percent per annum accrues to any amount due.

25 **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-29-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **15.1-29-12. Tuition payments - Determination.**

28 1. Except as provided in section 15.1-29-13, a school district sending a student to
29 another district for purposes of education shall pay the full cost of education
30 incurred by the admitting district.

- 1 2. a. The admitting district shall determine the cost of education per student for its
2 kindergarten, elementary, and high school students on the basis of its
3 average daily membership and those expenditures permitted in determining
4 the cost of education per student in section 15.1-27-03.
- 5 b. To the cost of education per student, the admitting district shall add the latest
6 available statewide average per student cost for extracurricular activities and
7 the state average capital outlay per student. The state average capital outlay
8 per student is determined by dividing the total of all school districts' annual
9 expenditures for sinking and interest funds, tax receipts to the building funds,
10 and general fund expenditures for capital outlay by the average daily
11 membership of the state.
- 12 c. The admitting district shall subtract the following from the amount arrived at
13 under subdivision b:
- 14 (1) The weighted per student payment received by the admitting district,
15 less the average amount per North Dakota resident student enrolled in
16 the school district realized from the deductions applied under section
17 15.1-27-06; and
- 18 (2) Any credit for taxes paid to the admitting district by the student's parent.
- 19 d. The amount remaining is the full cost of education incurred by the admitting
20 district and the tuition amount payable for the individual student.
- 21 ~~3. If the student's school district of residence and the student's parent are both paying~~
22 ~~tuition, the credit allowed under subdivision c of subsection 2 for taxes paid to the~~
23 ~~admitting district by the student's parent must be proportionately credited to the~~
24 ~~student's district of residence and the student's parent.~~
- 25 4. This chapter does not affect the right of a school board to charge and collect tuition
26 from students who are not residents of this state, in accordance with section
27 15.1-29-02.

28 **SECTION 25. TRANSPORTATION GRANTS - DISTRIBUTION.**

- 29 1. During each year of the 2005-07 biennium, the superintendent of public instruction
30 shall distribute from the grants - state school aid line item in House Bill No. 1013,

1 as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, fifty percent of \$33,500,000 as
2 state transportation aid payments.

3 2. a. During the first year of the biennium, the superintendent of public instruction
4 shall calculate the payment to which each school district is entitled based on
5 the state transportation formula as it existed on June 30, 2001, except that
6 the superintendent shall provide reimbursement for in-city mileage at the rate
7 of fifty cents for schoolbuses having a capacity of ten or more students and
8 reimbursement for vehicles having a capacity of nine or fewer students and
9 transporting students who live outside the incorporated limits of a city at the
10 rate of forty cents per mile. The superintendent of public instruction shall use
11 the latest available student enrollment count in each school district.

12 b. During the second year of the biennium, the superintendent of public
13 instruction shall distribute to each school district the same amount that the
14 district received under this section for transportation services provided during
15 the first year of the biennium.

16 3. If insufficient moneys exist to fully meet the requirements of this section, the
17 superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the payments according to the
18 percentage of the total amount to which each school district is entitled.

19 4. Nothing in this section permits reimbursement for any costs incurred in providing
20 transportation for student attendance at extracurricular activities or events.

21 **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 37 of chapter 667 of the 2003 Session Laws is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **SECTION 37. CONTINGENT PAYMENTS - DISTRIBUTION.** If any moneys
24 appropriated for per student payments and transportation payments in the grants - state
25 school aid line item in Senate Bill No. 2013 remain after payment of all statutory
26 obligations for per student and transportation payments during the biennium beginning
27 July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2005, the superintendent of public instruction shall
28 distribute the remaining moneys as follows:

29 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the first \$119,190, or so
30 much of that amount as may be necessary, for the purpose of reimbursing
31 eligible school districts that received reduced amounts of state aid. For the

1 purposes of this subsection, an eligible school district is one that received a
2 reduction in state aid during the second year of the 2003-05 biennium
3 because the district's general fund levy fell below one hundred forty mills as
4 the result of a reorganization or the dissolution of a contiguous district. The
5 following affected districts listed are entitled to receive reimbursements:

6	<u>Velva 1</u>	<u>\$24,355</u>
7	<u>TGU 60</u>	<u>93,514</u>
8	<u>Lewis and Clark</u>	<u>1,321</u>

9 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall return the next \$759,000 to the
10 state general fund.

11 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the ~~first~~ next \$250,000, or
12 so much of that amount as ~~is~~ may be necessary, for the purpose of providing
13 reimbursements to the chief administrators of joint powers agreements
14 pursuant to section 19 of this Act.

15 ~~2.~~ 4. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the next \$1,000,000, or so
16 much of that amount as ~~is~~ may be necessary, for the purpose of providing
17 reorganization bonuses, pursuant to section 15.1-12-11.1, to school districts
18 having reorganizations effective after July 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2005. If
19 insufficient moneys exist to fully meet the requirements of this subsection, the
20 superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the payments according to
21 that percentage of the amount available to which a school district is entitled.

22 ~~3.~~ 5. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the remainder of the
23 moneys to provide additional per student payments on a prorated basis,
24 according to the average daily membership of each school district during the
25 2004-05 school year.

26 **SECTION 27. CONTINGENCY - RETURN OF MONEYS TO THE GENERAL FUND.**

27 If any moneys appropriated for per student payments and transportation payments in the grants
28 - state school aid line item in House Bill No. 1013, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative
29 assembly, remain after payment of all statutory obligations for per student and transportation
30 payments during the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, and if

1 section 26 of this Act does not become effective before July 1, 2005, the superintendent of
2 public instruction shall return the first \$759,000 to the state general fund.

3 **SECTION 28. CONTINGENCY.** If any moneys appropriated for per student payments
4 and transportation payments in the grants - state school aid line item in House Bill No. 1013, as
5 approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, remain after payment of all statutory obligations
6 for per student and transportation payments during the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and
7 ending June 30, 2007, and after the superintendent of public instruction has fulfilled any
8 directives contained in section 27 of this Act, the superintendent shall distribute the remaining
9 moneys as follows:

- 10 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the first \$450,000, or so much of
11 that amount as may be necessary, to provide additional payments to school
12 districts serving English language learners in accordance with section 15.1-27-12.
- 13 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the next \$1,000,000, or so much
14 of that amount as may be necessary, for the purpose of providing additional per
15 student payments to school districts participating in eligible educational
16 associations in accordance with section 32 of this Act.
- 17 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall use the remainder of the moneys to
18 provide additional per student payments on a prorated basis according to the latest
19 available average daily membership of each school district.

20 **SECTION 29. CONTINGENCY PAYMENTS - TEACHER COMPENSATION -**
21 **ADDITIONAL PER STUDENT PAYMENTS.** If any moneys appropriated by the legislative
22 assembly to the grants - teacher compensation line item in House Bill No. 1013, as approved
23 by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, remain after completion of all statutory obligations, the
24 superintendent of public instruction shall use the remaining moneys to provide additional per
25 student payments on a prorated basis, according to the latest available average daily
26 membership of each school district.

27 **SECTION 30. TEACHER COMPENSATION - USE OF NEW MONEYS.**

- 28 1. During the 2005-07 biennium, the board of each school district shall use an
29 amount equal to at least seventy percent of all new moneys received for per
30 student payments under section 15.1-27-04 and tuition apportionment payments
31 under section 15.1-28-03 for the purpose of increasing the compensation paid to

- 1 teachers and for the purpose of providing compensation to teachers who begin
2 employment with the district on or after July 1, 2005.
- 3 2. For purposes of this section, "new moneys" means any increase in the amount
4 received by a district for per student payments under section 15.1-27-04 and
5 tuition apportionment payments under section 15.1-28-03 between the 2003-05
6 biennium and the 2005-07 biennium.
- 7 3. For purposes of this section, school districts providing educational services under
8 a cooperative agreement approved by the superintendent of public instruction are
9 treated as a single district.
- 10 4. a. The provisions of this section do not apply to a school district if the board of
11 the school district, after a public hearing at which public testimony and
12 documentary evidence are accepted, determines in its discretion and by an
13 affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members that complying with the
14 provisions of subsection 1 would place the school district in the position of
15 having insufficient fiscal resources to meet its other obligations.
- 16 b. Within ten days of the vote required by subdivision a, the board shall notify
17 the superintendent of public instruction of its action and shall file a report
18 detailing the grounds for its determination and action.
- 19 c. The superintendent of public instruction shall report all notices received under
20 this subsection to an interim committee designated by the legislative council.

21 **SECTION 31. REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - EDUCATIONAL**

22 **ASSOCIATIONS GOVERNED BY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS.** At the conclusion of
23 each school year during the 2005-07 biennium, the superintendent of public instruction shall
24 compile a report covering the operations of each educational association governed by a joint
25 powers agreement and verified by the superintendent of public instruction as meeting the
26 requirements of section 15.1-07-28. The report must include the administrative functions and
27 student services in which members of each educational association participated and the direct
28 and indirect benefits of such participation. The report must specifically address whether school
29 district participation resulted in expanded course offerings, improved state and national test
30 results, administrative consolidations, instructional sharing, increased or improved professional
31 development opportunities, and cost-savings to each school district. The superintendent of

1 public instruction shall present the reports to an interim committee designated by the legislative
2 council.

3 **SECTION 32. APPROPRIATION - ELIGIBLE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.**

4 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
5 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as may
6 be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of
7 providing payments to school districts that are members of eligible educational
8 associations, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

9 2. a. During June 2006 the superintendent of public instruction shall distribute
10 seventy-five percent of the money appropriated under subsection 1 to eligible
11 school districts on a per student basis. The total amount to which a school
12 district is entitled under this subdivision may not exceed the amount
13 expended by the school district during the 2005-06 school year to participate
14 in an eligible educational association.

15 b. During June 2007 the superintendent of public instruction shall distribute the
16 remaining money appropriated under subsection 1 to eligible school districts
17 on a per student basis. The total amount to which a school district is entitled
18 under this subdivision may not exceed the amount expended by the school
19 district during the 2006-07 school year to participate in an eligible educational
20 association.

21 3. For purposes of this section, an "eligible educational association" is one that is
22 governed by a joint powers agreement that the superintendent of public instruction
23 has verified as meeting the requirements of section 15.1-07-28.

24 **SECTION 33. APPROPRIATION - REORGANIZATION BONUSES - CONTINGENCY.**

25 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
26 appropriated, the sum of \$759,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the
27 superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of providing a reorganization bonus to any
28 school district having a reorganization effective on July 1, 2005, pursuant to section
29 15.1-12-11.1, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. If any
30 moneys remain after the superintendent of public instruction completes the payment of
31 bonuses for any reorganization effective on July 1, 2005, the superintendent shall use the

1 remaining moneys to provide additional per student payments on a prorated basis, according to
2 the latest available average daily membership of each school district.

3 **SECTION 34. APPROPRIATION - TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY TRAINING.**

4 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
5 appropriated, the sum of \$30,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the
6 superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of contracting to provide transportation
7 efficiency training to school district personnel, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and
8 ending June 30, 2007.

9 **SECTION 35. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-09-42 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 repealed.

11 **SECTION 36. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-12-11.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 repealed.

13 **SECTION 37. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-12-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 repealed.

15 **SECTION 38. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1, 17, and 35 of this Act become effective
16 on July 1, 2006, and section 37 of this Act becomes effective on December 31, 2005.

17 **SECTION 39. EMERGENCY.** Section 26 of this Act is declared to be an emergency
18 measure.