

## Timing of Work

- 1) Because the timeline for the project is tight, we wanted to know more about the timing of the contract. Specifically, when is the contract decision expected to be made, and what is the expectation for the project to commence?

The next meeting of the Committee to Study a New Method of Funding for Public Schools in Nevada is scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2012, at which time it is anticipated that the Committee will discuss the RFP responses received and select a consultant. The contract will be executed upon completion of negotiations with the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

- 2) Is there a schedule of meetings set for the Committee to Study a New Method of Funding for Public Schools in Nevada? When is the first meeting?

The Committee previously met on January 24, 2012, and March 2, 2012. As noted above, the next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2012. Two additional meetings are planned for August 2012. At the meeting tentatively scheduled for August 9, 2012, the consultant is scheduled to present a preliminary report of findings and recommendations. At the meeting tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2012, the consultant is scheduled to present the final report.

## Details on the Scope of Work

- 1) What about distribution of non K-12 programs such as adult diploma programs? Will consultant be expected to contemplate alternative distribution mechanisms, funding, or weights for these programs?

The Committee has not specifically discussed non K-12 programs such as adult diploma programs, but the consultant would not be precluded from examining such programs in the analysis of the methods of public school finance in other states.

- 2) What about kindergarten pupils; and disabled or gifted and talented child under the age of five who are currently counted as 0.6 students for apportionment purposes? Will the consultant be expected to contemplate alternative distribution mechanisms for these programs and/or the 0.6 weight associated with these students?

The Committee has not specifically discussed kindergarten pupils, and disabled or gifted and talented children under the age of five who are currently counted as 0.6 students for apportionment purposes, but the consultant would not be precluded from examining such programs in the analysis of the methods of public school finance in other states.

- 3) The RFP in describing the amounts of money available to schools includes the sentence, "Varying levels of categorical funding, outside of the funding formula, are available to support public schools in the state." Will the consultant be provided with a full inventory of ALL categorical programs, total program funding, and funding allocations to districts (along with methods of distribution, e.g., formula, competitive application, etc.) including those from state and federal sources?

Yes, staff from the LCB and Nevada Department of Education (NDE) will be available to assist the consultant in the gathering of Nevada-specific information and data needed to complete the Scope of Work.

- 4) Will the consultant be expected to suggest alternative distribution formulas for federal categorical programs provided that flexibility exists within those programs?

Yes, the RFP requires the consultant to identify how funding sources available for each identified student need or characteristic (federal, local or other) are accounted for, or are incorporated into, other states' funding models for public education.

### **Finance Data Availability**

- 1) Is detailed revenue and expenditure data by account code available for each school district in electronic format?

Yes.

- 2) Is there school-level expenditure data available in Nevada?

Yes, such data is available through the state's data management platform known as In\$ite, obtained through Edmin.Com.

- 3) Does the state's expenditure data disaggregate expenditures for special education by the type of students served?

No, the state's expenditure data does not disaggregate expenditures for special education by the type of students served, but staff from the LCB and the NDE will be available to assist the consultant in the gathering of Nevada-specific information and data needed to complete the Scope of Work.

- 4) Will the consultant be expected to examine local sources of funding such as donations?

No, the Committee wishes to focus the study on the mechanisms used to distribute available state funds for education to local school districts.

### **Special Education**

- 1) Does the state maintain a student level special education database, and will the NDE be able to run queries to provide district level summary data about the types of services that students with special needs are provided for the 13 specific special education classifications?

No, but staff from the LCB and the NDE will be available to assist the consultant in the gathering of Nevada-specific information and data needed to complete the Scope of Work.

- 2) a) The RFP uses the terminology when describing pupils with disabilities classifications as "mild, moderate, and severe." Are these classifications that the state and districts use when classifying students or is the proposal looking for the consultant to determine which disabilities meet these criteria?

No, Nevada does not currently use the disabilities classification of “mild, moderate, and severe.” As part of the study, the consultant shall recommend which disabilities meet these criteria based on best practices found in other states’ funding methodologies for special education.

b) Additionally, are data available on placement in least restrictive environment categories of time spent in the general education classroom by district: 80% or more of the day; 79% to 40% of the day; less than 40% of the day; or not in the general education school?

Yes, data is available on placement in least restrictive environment categories of time spent in the general education classroom by district: 80% or more of the day; 79% to 40% of the day; less than 40% of the day; or not in the general education school.