House Joint Resolution 24
Special Education Funding Task Force Meeting
May 11, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
ISBE VTEL Rooms

Objective: To study current special education funding needs and to make recommendations as to how the State can increase special education funding and ease the financial burden on school districts.

Draft Agenda

I. Share analyses to date from IL
II. Share a continuous improvement funding & accountability model under development for Alberta, Canada
III. Review special education program goals for the state. The list derived to date includes the following:
   a. Promoting comparable services for students with comparable needs across the state.
   b. Fostering high-level, measurable outcomes for students in special education.
   c. Serving students in the Least Restrictive Environment.
   d. Promoting pre-referral services to serve students outside special education when appropriate.
   e. Provide maximum flexibility at the local level coupled with accountability.

IV. Reviews funding goals – thus far, there seems to be agreement around the following:
   • Sufficient funding within each district to reach the education goals set for the state’s SE students.
   • State funds distributed in accord with student needs.
   • Funds distributed in a way that produces a reasonable reporting burden.
   • A formula designed to foster best practice.
   • Professional discretion in spending including RTI.
   • A clear basis for the amount of funds being distributed.
   • SE funding tied to the general education formula.
   • Funding provisions that respond to differences in student performance.
   • Specifically, we want to:
     o Consolidate the components of the current formula
     o Create separate provisions for high cost students.

V. Sub-committee reports/discussion:
   • Sub-committee considering alternatives to the current formula, i.e. what we might propose if we were to start over. Members are:
     • Roxanne Kovacevich, Chair (rkovacevich2003@yahoo.com)
     • Peg Agnos
• Beth Conran
• Sally Masear
• Representative Sandra Pihos
• Deb Vespa

• Sub-committee making recommendations for change if we were to retain the current formula – what changes would be proposed if any? The members are:
  • Bridget Helmholz, Chair (brh1105@gmail.com)
  • Frances Carroll
  • Charlotte Des Jardins
  • Tim Imler
  • Scott Pasley

VI. Wrap Up/ Next Steps

a. Next steps – what needs to be done to keep us on track for a report?
b. Agenda– suggested items for next meeting
b. Next meeting: June 19, 2009, 9:00a.m. – 12:00a.m.

(An audio recording of this meeting will be maintained by ISBE.)