South Dakota Legislative Research Council

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April 8, 2014

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary
SD Department of Education
MacKay Building
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2014 Session

Dear Dr. Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2014 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 31, 2014.

While this guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2014 South Dakota Legislature approved an ongoing 3.3% increase in the per student allocation (PSA) in SB188, with the funding for the increase approved in SB187. The Governor recommended, and the Legislature approved, a 3% PSA increase which added $138.77 to the PSA. During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved additional PSA funding in the amount of $16.72 per student. The increase totals $2,200,521 and will be funded entirely from the State General Fund. (FY2014 PSA - $4,625.65; FY2015 PSA - $4,781.14; $155.49 Increase)

It is the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations that the additional increase of 0.3% ($16.72 per student) be used by the local school districts to increase the ongoing average salaries of all certified teachers. It is further the intent of the Committee that the additional state money is to be used to supplement, not supplant, other district funds that may be utilized for improving ongoing average teacher salaries. Each district shall certify to the Department that the additional 0.3% increase in the PSA was used in accordance with

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the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations on a form similar to that contained in Attachment 1. The Department of Education shall provide a report on the implementation of the 0.3% PSA distribution at the December Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters

/S/ Representative Fred Romkema

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management

Attachment 1

Example of a Draft Certification Form from the Department of Education to the School Districts

Certification of Teacher Salary Increase for SY 2014-2015

X-Y-Z School District 99-9

As required by the South Dakota Legislative Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations, my school district hereby certifies to the Secretary of Education the following:

- For school year 2015 the average ongoing certified teacher salary will increase by at least 0.3%; and
- The PSA increase of 0.3% (approximately $16.72 per student), approved in addition to the recommended PSA increase of 3%, will be used to supplement, not supplant, other district funds that may be used to improve ongoing average teacher salaries.

☐ **Yes**, I certify that our school district has met the above stated requirements.

☐ **No**, my district cannot certify compliance to the above stated requirements.

Superintendent	School Board President
School Business Manager	Date