

SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
Summary of Action
January 25 2022

The School Budget Review Committee held hearings beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the Department of Education, State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146. The following members of the Committee were present: Department of Education Director Ann Lebo and public members: Leland Tack, Sue Battani, Mary Jo Hainstock, and Keith England. The director of the Department of Education is a non-voting member and the chair. All decisions were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

All decisions by the Committee shall be made in accordance with reasonable and uniform policies which shall be consistent with chapter 257. All such policies of general application shall be stated in rules adopted in accordance with chapter 17A. The Committee shall take into account the intent of chapter 257 to equalize educational opportunity, to provide a good education for all the children of Iowa, to provide property tax relief, to decrease the percentage of school costs paid from property taxes, and to provide reasonable control of school costs. The Committee shall also take into account the amount of funds available (257.31(10)). The SBRC shall review a school district's unexpended fund balance prior to any decision regarding unusual finance circumstances. The SBRC shall review a school district's unspent balance prior to any decision to increase modified supplemental amount under subsection 257.31(5).

1. Committee Informational Items

- AEA Follow-up: Special Education Balance
 - During the December 14, 2021 SBRC hearing, the Committee requested from two AEAs, Heartland and Central Rivers, best practices related to their consistently low special education carryforward balance. The responses from both AEAs were provided as an informational item.
- LEA Follow-up: Corrective Action Plan Updates
 - During the December 14, 2021 SBRC hearing, the Committee approved corrective action plans related to late financial report filing for nine districts. Plans for two of the districts, River Valley and Sidney, were approved with reservations and required additional follow-up from the district. The plans were provided as an informational item.
- Fiscal Updates
 - At its October 12, 2021 annual work session, the SBRC discussed various metrics that help to monitor district spending authority. As a result of this discussion, the Committee identified calculations available within the Unspent Authorized Budget (UAB) Report published by the Department of Management that were used to trigger a district appearance. Beginning with FY21, for any district whose total categorical balance is greater than the district's regular program balance for two consecutive years (year one will use final data and year two will use preliminary data), the SBRC now requires a fiscal update from the district. The January 25, 2022 hearing was the first time districts appeared for this purpose. A list of districts, updated preliminary FY21 UAB, and required exhibits were reviewed.

2. SWVPP Increased Enrollment - Approved funding and an equal amount of modified supplemental amount for eligible and requesting districts for actual costs submitted through the claims reimbursement process related to FY22 SWVPP increased enrollment and the district's response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, pending further Department review, pursuant to the calculation defined in Iowa Acts 2021, HF 868, Division IV, and funded by the Department through federal ESSER relief funds.
3. Lamoni Community School District. The district appeared to provide a fiscal update. No action taken; informational item only.
4. Iowa City Community School District. The district appeared to provide a fiscal update. No action taken; informational item only.
5. Lewis Central Community School District. The district appeared to provide a fiscal update. No action taken; informational item only.
6. Davenport Community School District. The district appeared to provide a fiscal update. No action taken; informational item only.