

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2328**

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Erbele, Klein

Representatives Headland, Vigesaa, Weisz

1 A BILL for an Act to create a school funding task force; to provide for a legislative management
2 report; and to provide an appropriation.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
5 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 6 1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall establish and provide
7 staffing and administrative services to a school funding task force facilitated by a
8 nonpartisan leadership organization. The task force may include public school
9 administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of the
10 legislative assembly appointed by the legislative management, parents of public
11 school students, representatives from the department of public instruction, a
12 representative from the governor's office, and a representative from a regional
13 education association.
- 14 2. During the 2023-24 interim, the school funding task force shall:
- 15 a. Review litigation the state was a party to relating to school funding and the
16 resulting implications for school funding models;
 - 17 b. Analyze higher education funding sources to determine whether the sources may
18 be used in whole or in part for the kindergarten through grade twelve system;
 - 19 c. Review school payment formulas to determine whether education costs can be
20 equalized across the state;
 - 21 d. Study the size, student population, and economics of school districts and the
22 number of facilities within the district per square mile compared with student
23 population;

- 1 e. Develop and study sliding-scale models within school districts based on size,
 - 2 student populations, and economics;
 - 3 f. Assess the negative impacts of the current funding formula;
 - 4 g. Study school funding formulas used by other states;
 - 5 h. Determine the benefits of and incentives to promote school district consolidation;
 - 6 i. Review school transportation costs considering location, size, and student
 - 7 enrollment; and
 - 8 j. Study high-cost student and special education student costs as those costs relate
 - 9 to the formula weighting factors.
- 10 3. The task force may:
- 11 a. Study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering
 - 12 location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and
 - 13 b. Review ending fund balances and analyze how the current funding formula
 - 14 impacts ending fund balances.
- 15 4. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 16 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative
- 17 assembly.

18 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - SCHOOL**

19 **DISTRICT OPERATING GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any

20 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of

21 \$3,095,040, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction

22 for the purpose of providing operating grants to school districts, for the biennium beginning

23 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this section is to be considered

24 one-time funding. The department of public instruction shall provide grants to school districts as

25 follows:

26 <u>School District</u>	<u>Grant</u>
27 Hope-Page public school district	\$150,000
28 Dakota prairie school district	409,316
29 Midkota public school district	264,437
30 North border school district	687,145
31 TGU school district	809,927

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly

1	Lewis and Clark public school district	<u>774,215</u>
2	Total	\$3,095,040