

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Fund

REFERENCE: HB 500, HD1, SD1, CD1, Section 67, Act 213

ACTION

REQUESTED: The Department of Education shall submit a report on the expenditures made pursuant to this section.

DOE REPORT: Funds were appropriated for FY 2008-09 for two distinct purposes under the program title of the Superintendent's Fund. Of this \$1.1 million appropriation, \$1 million was provided to assist schools facing financial challenges with WSF implementation, and \$100,000 was provided to assist Pearl Ridge Elementary's full inclusion program. On June 19, 2008 the Board of Education approved applying the \$1 million towards meeting the Legislature's FY 2008-09 \$10.26 million general fund reduction. In July 2008, \$47,535 of the \$100,000 for full inclusion was allocated to Pearl Ridge Elementary school to assist with the school's full inclusion program. In September 2008, \$52,465, which is the balance of the \$100,000, was restricted to meet the Governor's \$9.27 million general fund restriction.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA:

Due to severe fiscal constraints the Department has reduced this program's funding for both of the intended purposes.

Regarding the \$1 million, the Department is currently in the middle of the third year of WSF implementation and schools are planning for the fourth year. The 4% loss threshold adjustment in the WSF for FY 2008-09 will be the only assistance the Department can provide. Schools will need to work within their calculated WSF allocation, and no supplemental assistance will be available this year.

Of the \$100,000 for schools modeling full inclusion, \$47,535 has been allocated to Pearl Ridge Elementary to support full inclusion to assist in effectively educating special education students in general education classrooms with their regular education peers. Funds are being used to hire five paraprofessional tutors to support special education teachers in the regular education classroom.

FINDINGS: Regarding the \$1 million, schools have learned to anticipate the variable nature of finding that is inherent with a school funding

formula based on the actual level of student enrollment and students' characteristics.

Regarding the \$100,000, Pearl Ridge Elementary continues to utilize a portion of the funds, while the appropriation balance of \$52,465 did not have an intended beneficiary.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

On October 9, 2008 the Board of Education approved a recommendation for the FB 2009-11, to reduce the Superintendent's Fund from \$1.1 million to only \$47,535 to continue support for only the Pearl Ridge Elementary's full inclusion program.