



Office of the Superintendent

Brett White, Superintendent
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To: House K-12 Education Budget Committee
From: Brett White, USD 385 Andover Superintendent
Re: USD 385 - Written Testimony in Support of HB-2561 & HB-2697
Date: March 2018

Andover USD 385 provides this written testimony in support of HB-2561 & HB-2697. HB-2561 puts into law current practice, leaving the multiplier at 2.8. USD 385 supports this bill because it provides resolution to the current debate and provides clarity moving forward as we budget transportation costs. Under HB-2697, the multiplier is set at LPA recommendation of 5.0 USD 385 supports this bill as well to fix current statute. We offer the following insights for the committee's review:

- We support increasing the multiplier as additional funding is still needed for transportation. We do not cover our actual costs for the transportation services we provide, including students within 2.5 miles. This does not even include Special Education transportation costs, which are not fully covered by Special Education aid.
- We bus many students who live less than 2.5 due to hazardous routes, including HWY 54/400, and several busy four-lane streets with heavy traffic. This is the right thing to do for the safety of our students, but obviously comes with a price tag.
- Some of our schools have students who attend from neighborhoods that are not in the immediate vicinity of the building. Many of those areas do not have access to sidewalks, which is another reason that we have elected to bus students within 2.5 miles.
- These bills provide equity for high-density enrollment districts that would otherwise not exist if the current practice were changed.
- We strongly disagree that high-density districts should be asked to repay any funds previously received under the current long-standing practice. This would not be equitable, and would create hardship for our district, especially when our transportation costs far exceed the aid we receive. We have allocated the funds that we have received, and budgets are very tight. Going forward, we continue to have significant needs in order to provide an outstanding education for students. If we were not to receive high-density weighting in the future, it would significantly impact our ability to meet the staffing and operational needs that we will have in 2018-19 and beyond as we would have to shift additional general fund dollars to fund transportation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony for the committee's consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett White

USD 385 Superintendent