

SENATE BILL NO. 302

INTRODUCED BY D. WANZENRIED

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING SCHOOL FUNDING LAW BY INCREASING A DISTRICT'S MAXIMUM GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMOUNT; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-9-306, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 20-9-306, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-9-306. Definitions.** As used in this title, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "BASE" means base amount for school equity.

(2) "BASE aid" means:

(a) direct state aid for 44.7% of the basic entitlement and 44.7% of the total per-ANB entitlement for the general fund budget of a district;

(b) guaranteed tax base aid for an eligible district for any amount up to 35.3% of the basic entitlement, up to 35.3% of the total per-ANB entitlement budgeted in the general fund budget of a district, and 40% of the special education allowable cost payment;

(c) the total quality educator payment;

(d) the total at-risk student payment;

(e) the total Indian education for all payment; and

(f) the total American Indian achievement gap payment.

(3) "BASE budget" means the minimum general fund budget of a district, which includes 80% of the basic entitlement, 80% of the total per-ANB entitlement, 100% of the total quality educator payment, 100% of the total at-risk student payment, 100% of the total Indian education for all payment, 100% of the total American Indian achievement gap payment, and 140% of the special education allowable cost payment.

(4) "BASE budget levy" means the district levy in support of the BASE budget of a district, which may be supplemented by guaranteed tax base aid if the district is eligible under the provisions of 20-9-366 through 20-9-369.

(5) "BASE funding program" means the state program for the equitable distribution of the state's share

1 of the cost of Montana's basic system of public elementary schools and high schools, through county equalization  
 2 aid as provided in 20-9-331 and 20-9-333 and state equalization aid as provided in 20-9-343, in support of the  
 3 BASE budgets of districts and special education allowable cost payments as provided in 20-9-321.

4 (6) "Basic entitlement" means:

5 (a) for each high school district:<sup>+</sup>

6 ~~—— (i) \$236,552 for fiscal year 2008; and~~

7 ~~—— (ii) \$243,649 for each succeeding fiscal year;~~

8 (b) for each elementary school district or K-12 district elementary program without an approved and  
 9 accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school:<sup>+</sup>

10 ~~—— (i) \$21,290 for fiscal year 2008;~~

11 ~~—— (ii) \$21,922 for each succeeding fiscal year; and~~

12 (c) for each elementary school district or K-12 district elementary program with an approved and  
 13 accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school:

14 (i) for kindergarten through grade 6 elementary program:<sup>+</sup>

15 ~~—— (A) \$21,290 for fiscal year 2008; and~~

16 ~~—— (B) \$21,922 for each succeeding fiscal year; plus~~

17 (ii) for an approved and accredited junior high school program, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle  
 18 school:<sup>+</sup>

19 ~~—— (A) \$60,275 for fiscal year 2008; and~~

20 ~~—— (B) \$62,083 for each succeeding fiscal year.~~

21 (7) "Budget unit" means the unit for which the ANB of a district is calculated separately pursuant to  
 22 20-9-311.

23 (8) "Direct state aid" means 44.7% of the basic entitlement and 44.7% of the total per-ANB entitlement  
 24 for the general fund budget of a district and funded with state and county equalization aid.

25 (9) "Maximum general fund budget" means a district's general fund budget amount calculated from the  
 26 basic entitlement for the district, the total per-ANB entitlement for the district, 125% of the total quality educator  
 27 payment, 125% of the total at-risk student payment, 125% of the total Indian education for all payment, 125% of  
 28 the total American Indian achievement gap payment, and the greater of:

29 (a) 175% of special education allowable cost payments; or

30 (b) the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of the district's special education allowable cost expenditures

1 to the district's special education allowable cost payment for the fiscal year that is 2 years previous, with a  
2 maximum allowable ratio of 200%.

3 (10) "Over-BASE budget levy" means the district levy in support of any general fund amount budgeted  
4 that is above the BASE budget and below the maximum general fund budget for a district.

5 (11) "Total American Indian achievement gap payment" means the payment resulting from multiplying  
6 \$200 times the number of American Indian students enrolled in the district as provided in 20-9-330.

7 (12) "Total at-risk student payment" means the payment resulting from the distribution of any funds  
8 appropriated for the purposes of 20-9-328.

9 (13) "Total Indian education for all payment" means the payment resulting from multiplying \$20.40 times  
10 the ANB of the district or \$100 for each district, whichever is greater, as provided for in 20-9-329.

11 (14) "Total per-ANB entitlement" means the district entitlement resulting from the following calculations  
12 and using either the current year ANB or the 3-year ANB provided for in 20-9-311:

13 (a) for a high school district or a K-12 district high school program, a maximum rate of ~~\$5,861 for fiscal~~  
14 ~~year 2008~~ and \$6,037 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB, decreased at the rate of 50 cents per ANB  
15 for each additional ANB of the district up through 800 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 800 receiving the same  
16 amount of entitlement as the 800th ANB;

17 (b) for an elementary school district or a K-12 district elementary program without an approved and  
18 accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school, a maximum rate of ~~\$4,579 for fiscal~~  
19 ~~year 2008~~ and \$4,716 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB, decreased at the rate of 20 cents per ANB  
20 for each additional ANB of the district up through 1,000 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 1,000 receiving the  
21 same amount of entitlement as the 1,000th ANB; and

22 (c) for an elementary school district or a K-12 district elementary program with an approved and  
23 accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school, the sum of:

24 (i) a maximum rate of ~~\$4,579 for fiscal year 2008~~ and \$4,716 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first  
25 ANB for kindergarten through grade 6, decreased at the rate of 20 cents per ANB for each additional ANB up  
26 through 1,000 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 1,000 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 1,000th  
27 ANB; and

28 (ii) a maximum rate of ~~\$5,861 for fiscal year 2008~~ and \$6,037 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first  
29 ANB for grades 7 and 8, decreased at the rate of 50 cents per ANB for each additional ANB for grades 7 and 8  
30 up through 800 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 800 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 800th

1 ANB.

2 (15) "Total quality educator payment" means the payment resulting from multiplying ~~\$3,036~~ for fiscal year  
3 ~~2008~~ and \$3,042 for each ~~succeeding~~ fiscal year times the number of full-time equivalent educators as provided  
4 in 20-9-327."

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