## HOUSE BILL NO. 417 INTRODUCED BY HOLLENBAUGH, WARD

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS; CLARIFYING PROVISIONS RELATING TO FINANCING SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION AND ANNEXATION; REVISING THE CALCULATION OF AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-3-312, 20-6-411, 20-6-414, 20-6-422, AND 20-6-704, AND 20-9-311; MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 20-3-312, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-3-312. Trustees of district affected by boundary change. The trustees of any district to which the territory of another district is attached as a result of annexation, abandonment, territory transfer, or any other method of changing district boundaries, except by the consolidation of elementary districts, continue to be the trustees of the district with the same powers, duties, and responsibilities and subject to the same limitations provided by law as if there had been no boundary change. In the case of elementary district consolidation, the appointed trustees of the resulting elementary district shall assume their trustee positions under the authority of 20-6-423."

**Section 2**. Section 20-6-411, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-6-411. Bonded indebtedness to remain with original territory except when assumed by election. Whenever district boundaries are changed in any manner prescribed in this title, the existing bonded indebtedness against any a district or territory affected by a change of boundaries shall must remain the indebtedness of the original territory against which such the bonds were issued and shall must be paid by levies on the original territory, except when elementary districts are consolidated with the mutual assumption of bonded indebtedness or when an elementary a district is annexed with a joint assumption of the annexing district's bonded indebtedness with the annexing district. Any moneys money to the credit of the debt service fund of a district when its boundaries are changed shall must be used to pay the existing bond principal and interest of the original territory issuing such the bonds as it becomes due or for bond redemption under the bonding provisions of this title."

**Section 3.** Section 20-6-414, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-6-414. Cash disposition when districts consolidated. Whenever two or more districts are consolidated without the mutual assumption of bonded indebtedness, all cash and debts, other than cash credited to the debt service fund and debts for bonded indebtedness, shall must be credited or debited to the same types of funds of the consolidated district as the funds from which they were transferred by the county treasurer. In addition, when two or more elementary districts are consolidated with the mutual assumption of bonded indebtedness, the cash credited to the debt service fund and the bonded indebtedness also shall must be transferred to a similar fund of the consolidated district."

Section 4. Section 20-6-422, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-6-422. District annexation. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Annexing district" means the district to which another district is being attached through an annexation procedure.
- (b) "District to be annexed" means the district that is being attached to another district through an annexation procedure.
- (2) A district may be annexed to a contiguous district when one of the conditions of 20-6-421 is met in accordance with the following procedure:
- (a) An annexation proposition may be introduced in the district to be annexed by either of the two following methods:
- (i) the trustees may pass a resolution requesting the county superintendent of the county where the district is located to order an election to consider an annexation proposition for their district; or
- (ii) not less than 20% of the electors of the district who are qualified to vote under the provisions of 20-20-301 may petition the county superintendent of the county where the district is located requesting an election to consider an annexation proposition for their district.
- (b) The resolution or petition must state whether the annexation is to be made with or without the joint assumption of bonded indebtedness of the annexing district by the district to be annexed and the annexing district.
- (3) Before ordering an election on the proposition, the county superintendent of the county where the district to be annexed is located must first receive from the trustees of the annexing district a resolution giving the county superintendent the authority to annex the district. The resolution must state whether the annexation is to be made with or without the joint assumption of bonded indebtedness of the annexing district by the district to be

annexed and the annexing district. The resolution from the annexing district and the resolution or petition from the district to be annexed must agree on whether or not there will be joint assumption of bonded indebtedness. Without agreement, the annexation proposition may not be considered further.

- (4) When the county superintendent of the county where the district to be annexed is located has received the resolution authorizing the annexation from the annexing district and the resolution or valid petition from the district to be annexed, the county superintendent shall, within 10 days and as provided by 20-20-201, order the trustees of the district to be annexed to call an annexation election.
- (5) The district to be annexed shall call and conduct an election in the manner prescribed in this title for school elections and subject to subsections (6) and (7). Any elector qualified to vote under the provisions of 20-20-301 may vote.
- (6) (a) If the district to be annexed is to jointly assume the bonded indebtedness of the annexing district, the ballots must read, after stating the annexation proposition, "FOR annexation with assumption of bonded indebtedness" and "AGAINST annexation with assumption of bonded indebtedness".
- (b) When the trustees in each the district conducting an the election canvass the vote under the provisions of 20-20-415, they shall determine the number of votes "FOR" and "AGAINST" the proposition.
  - (c) The proposition is approved in the district if a majority of those voting approve the proposition.
- (7) If the district to be annexed is not to jointly assume the bonded indebtedness of the annexing district, the ballots must read, after stating the annexation proposition, "FOR annexation without assumption of bonded indebtedness" and "AGAINST annexation without assumption of bonded indebtedness". The annexation proposition is approved by a district if a majority of those voting in a district approve the proposition.
- (8) After the county superintendent of the county where the district to be annexed is located has received the election certification provided for in 20-20-416 from the trustees of the district conducting the annexation election and if the annexation proposition has been approved by the election, the county superintendent shall order the annexation of the territory of the district voting on the proposition to the district that has authorized the annexation to its territory effective July 1. The order must be issued within 10 days after the receipt of the election certificate. For annexation with joint assumption of bonded indebtedness, the order must specify that there will be joint assumption of the bonded indebtedness between of the annexing district by the owners of all taxable real and personal property in the annexed territory and in the annexing of the district to be annexed. The county superintendent of the county where the district to be annexed is located shall send a copy of the order to the board of county commissioners of each county involved in the annexation order and to the trustees of the districts involved in the annexation order.

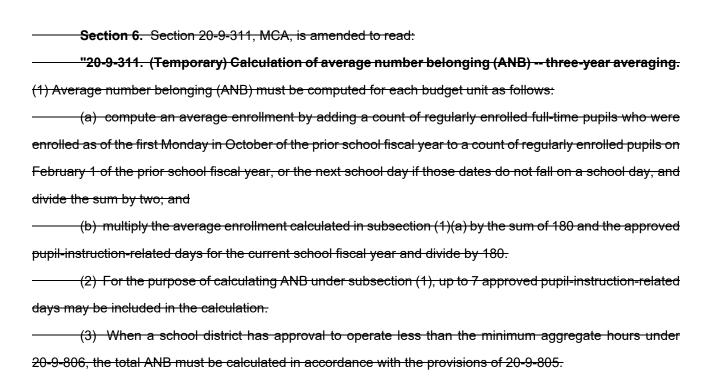
(9) If the annexation proposition is disapproved in the district to be annexed, the annexation proposition fails and the county superintendent of the county where the district to be annexed is located shall notify each district of the disapproval of the annexation proposition."

## Section 5. Section 20-6-704, MCA, is amended to read:

- "20-6-704. Dissolution of K-12 school district. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), in order to dissolve a K-12 district under the provisions of this section, the trustees of a district shall submit for approval to the electors of the K-12 district a proposition dissolving the K-12 district for the purpose of annexing or consolidating the K-12 district's elementary or high school program with a contiguous school district or districts in an ensuing school fiscal year under the provisions of 20-6-422 or 20-6-423.
- (2) If the trustees of the school district determine that the creation or continuation of the K-12 district has resulted in or will result in the loss of federal funding for the elementary or high school programs and that it is in the best interest of the district to dissolve into the original elementary district and high school district that existed prior to the formation of the K-12 district, the trustees may dissolve the district under the following procedure:
- (a) The trustees of the district shall pass a resolution requesting the county superintendent to order a dissolution of the district.
- (b) When the county superintendent receives the resolution from the district, the county superintendent shall, within 10 days, order the dissolution of the K-12 district into the original elementary district and high school district, to take effect on July 1 of the ensuing school fiscal year. Within 30 days of the order, the county superintendent shall send a copy of the order to the board of county commissioners, the trustees of the district, and the superintendent of public instruction.
- (3) If the entire territory of the dissolving K-12 district will be annexed to or consolidated with a contiguous district or districts, the resolution or petition required in subsection (1) or (2) must contain a description of the manner in which the real and personal property and funds of the district are to be apportioned in the dissolution of the district and the subsequent annexation to or consolidation with one or more other districts. If a portion of the dissolving K-12 district will not be annexed or consolidated with another district or districts, the resolution or petition must contain a description of the manner in which the property, funds, and financial obligations, including bonded indebtedness, of the K-12 district are to be apportioned to the district or districts whose territory is not annexed to or consolidated with another district.
- (4) After the county superintendent receives the certificate of election provided for in 20-20-416 from the trustees of the K-12 district and from each district included in a consolidation proposition, the county

superintendent shall determine whether the dissolution and annexation or consolidation proposition or propositions have been approved. If the K-12 district has approved the dissolution proposition and each district involved in a consolidation has approved the consolidation proposition, the county superintendent shall, within 10 days after the receipt of the election certificate, order the dissolution of the K-12 district into the original elementary district and high school district, to take effect on July 1 of the ensuing school fiscal year. Within 30 days of the order, the county superintendent shall send a copy of the dissolution order to the board of county commissioners, the trustees of the district included in the dissolution order, and the superintendent of public instruction.

- (5) Whenever a K-12 district is dissolved, the following provisions apply:
- (a) The trustees of the elementary district whose territory is not annexed or consolidated upon dissolution of the K-12 district are responsible for the execution of remaining financial obligations of the K-12 district and for the apportionment between the elementary and high school programs of any obligations not identified in the resolution required under subsection (3).
  - (b) The provisions of 20-6-410 apply for tenure teachers in the dissolution of a K-12 district.
- (c) For purposes of applying the budget limitation provisions of 20-9-308, the budget of a K-12 district during its last year of operations as a K-12 district will be prorated based on rules promulgated by the superintendent of public instruction."



(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), for the purpose of calculating ANB, enrollment in an
education program:
(i) from 181 <u>180</u> to 359 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as
one-quarter-time enrollment;
(ii) from 360 to 539 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as half-time
enrollment;
(iii) from 540 to 719 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as three-quarter-time
enrollment; and
(iv) 720 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as full-time enrollment.
(b) Enrollment in a program intended to provide fewer than 180 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per
school year may not be included for purposes of ANB.
(c) Enrollment in a self-paced program or course may be converted to an hourly equivalent based on
the hours necessary and appropriate to provide the course within a regular classroom schedule.
(d) A pupil in grades 1 through 12 who is concurrently enrolled in more than one public school, program,
or district may not be counted as more than one full-time pupil for ANB purposes.
(5) In calculating the ANB for pupils enrolled in a program established under 20-7-117(1), enrollment in
a program that provides 360 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year must be counted as
one-half pupil for ANB purposes.
(6) When a pupil has been absent, with or without excuse, for more than 10 consecutive school days,
the pupil may not be included in the enrollment count used in the calculation of the ANB unless the pupil resumes
attendance prior to the day of the enrollment count.
(7) The enrollment of prekindergarten pupils, as provided in 20-7-117, may not be included in the ANB
<del>calculations.</del>
(8) The average number belonging of the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils for the public schools of a
district must be based on the aggregate of all the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils attending the schools of the
district, except that the ANB is calculated as a separate budget unit when:
(a) (i) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles beyond the incorporated limits of a city or town
located in the district and at least 20 miles from any other school of the district, the number of regularly enrolled,
full-time pupils of the school must be calculated as a separate budget unit for ANB purposes and the district must
receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;
(ii) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles from any other school of the district and

incorporated territory is not involved in the district, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;

(iii) the superintendent of public instruction approves an application not to aggregate when conditions exist affecting transportation, such as poor roads, mountains, rivers, or other obstacles to travel, or when any other condition exists that would result in an unusual hardship to the pupils of the school if they were transported to another school, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district; or

(iv) two or more districts consolidate or annex under the provisions of 20-6-422 or 20-6-423, the ANB and the basic entitlements of the component districts must be calculated separately for a period of 3 years following the consolidation or annexation. Each district shall retain a percentage of its basic entitlement for 3 additional years as follows:

- (A) 75% of the basic entitlement for the fourth year;
- (B) 50% of the basic entitlement for the fifth year; and
- (C) 25% of the basic entitlement for the sixth year.
- (b) a junior high school has been approved and accredited as a junior high school, all of the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the junior high school must be considered as high school district pupils for ANB purposes;
- (c) a middle school has been approved and accredited, all pupils below the 7th grade must be considered elementary school pupils for ANB purposes and the 7th and 8th grade pupils must be considered high school pupils for ANB purposes; or
- (d) a school has not been accredited by the board of public education, the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils attending the nonaccredited school are not eligible for average number belonging calculation purposes, nor will an average number belonging for the nonaccredited school be used in determining the BASE funding program for the district.
- (9) The district shall provide the superintendent of public instruction with semiannual reports of school attendance, absence, and enrollment for regularly enrolled students, using a format determined by the superintendent.
- (10) (a) Except as provided in subsections (10)(b) and (10)(c), enrollment in a basic education program provided by the district through any combination of onsite or offsite instruction may be included for ANB purposes

only if the pupil is offered access to the complete range of educational services for the basic education program

required by the accreditation standards adopted by the board of public education. (b) Access to school programs and services for a student placed by the trustees in a private program for special education may be limited to the programs and services specified in an approved individual education plan supervised by the district. (c) Access to school programs and services for a student who is incarcerated in a facility, other than a youth detention center, may be limited to the programs and services provided by the district, at district expense, under an agreement with the incarcerating facility. (d) This subsection (10) may not be construed to require a school district to offer access to activities governed by an organization having jurisdiction over interscholastic activities, contests, and tournaments to a pupil who is not otherwise eligible under the rules of the organization. (11) A district may include only, for ANB purposes, an enrolled pupil who is otherwise eligible under this title and who is: (a) a resident of the district or a nonresident student admitted by trustees under a student attendance agreement and who is attending a school of the district; (b) unable to attend school due to because of a medical reason certified by a medical doctor and receiving individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at a home or facility that does not offer an educational program; (c) unable to attend school due to because of the student's incarceration in a facility, other than a youth detention center, and who is receiving individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at a home or facility that does not offer an educational program; (d) receiving special education and related services, other than day treatment, under a placement by the trustees at a private nonsectarian school or private program if the pupil's services are provided at the district's expense under an approved individual education plan supervised by the district; (e) participating in the running start program at district expense under 20-9-706; (f) receiving educational services, provided by the district, using appropriately licensed district staff at a private residential program or private residential facility licensed by the department of public health and human services; (g) enrolled in an educational program or course provided at district expense using electronic or offsite delivery methods, including but not limited to tutoring, distance learning programs, online programs, and technology delivered technology-delivered learning programs, while attending a school of the district or any other

nonsectarian offsite instructional setting with the approval of the trustees of the district. The pupil shall:	
(i) meet the residency requirements for that district as provided in 1-1-215;	
(ii) live in the district and must be eligible for educational services under the Individuals With Disabiliti	es
Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794; or	
(iii) attend school in the district under a mandatory attendance agreement as provided in 20-5-321.	
(h) a resident of the district attending a Montana job corps program under an interlocal agreement w	ith
the district under 20-9-707.	
(12) (a) For an elementary or high school district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, t	he
district's maximum general fund budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated	ed
using the current year ANB for all budget units or the 3-year average ANB for all budget units, whichever	<del>/el</del>
generates the greatest maximum general fund budget.	
(b) For a K-12 district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, the district's maximum general fu	nc
budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated separately for the elementary a	nd
high school programs pursuant to subsection (12)(a) and then combined.	
(13) The term "3-year ANB" means an average ANB over the most recent 3-year period, calculated to	<del>эу</del> :
(a) adding the ANB for the budget unit for the ensuing school fiscal year to the ANB for each of t	he
previous 2 school fiscal years; and	
(b) dividing the sum calculated under subsection (13)(a) by three. (Terminates June 30, 2007sec. 25(	<del>2)</del> ,
<del>Ch. 462, L. 2005.)</del>	
20-9-311. (Effective July 1, 2007) Calculation of average number belonging (ANB) three-year	<del>:a</del> ı
averaging. (1) Average number belonging (ANB) must be computed as follows:	
(a) compute an average enrollment by adding a count of regularly enrolled full-time pupils who we	<del>:re</del>
enrolled as of the first Monday in October of the prior school fiscal year to a count of regularly enrolled pupils	on
February 1 of the prior school fiscal year, or the next school day if those dates do not fall on a school day, a	nc
divide the sum by two; and	
(b) multiply the average enrollment calculated in subsection (1)(a) by the sum of 180 and the approv	ec
pupil-instruction-related days for the current school fiscal year and divide by 180.	
(2) For the purpose of calculating ANB under subsection (1), up to 7 approved pupil-instruction-relationships (2).	ed
days may be included in the calculation.	
(3) When a school district has approval to operate less than the minimum aggregate hours und	<del>le</del> i
20-9-806, the total ANR must be calculated in accordance with the provisions of 20-9-805	

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), for the purpose of calculating ANB, enrollment in an
education program:
(i) from 181 180 to 359 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as
one-quarter-time enrollment;
(ii) from 360 to 539 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as half-time
enrollment;
(iii) from 540 to 719 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as three-quarter-time
enrollment; and
(iv) 720 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as full-time enrollment.
(b) Enrollment in a program intended to provide fewer than 180 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per
school year may not be included for purposes of ANB.
(c) Enrollment in a self-paced program or course may be converted to an hourly equivalent based on
the hours necessary and appropriate to provide the course within a regular classroom schedule.
(d) A pupil in grades 1 through 12 who is concurrently enrolled in more than one public school, program,
or district may not be counted as more than one full-time pupil for ANB purposes.
(5) In calculating the ANB for pupils enrolled in a program established under 20-7-117(1), enrollment in
a program that provides 360 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year must be counted as
one-half pupil for ANB purposes.
(6) When a pupil has been absent, with or without excuse, for more than 10 consecutive school days,
the pupil may not be included in the enrollment count used in the calculation of the ANB unless the pupil resumes
attendance prior to the day of the enrollment count.
(7) The enrollment of prekindergarten pupils, as provided in 20-7-117, may not be included in the ANB
<del>calculations.</del>
(8) The average number belonging of the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils for the public schools of a
district must be based on the aggregate of all the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils attending the schools of the
district, except that when:
(a) (i) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles beyond the incorporated limits of a city or town
located in the district and at least 20 miles from any other school of the district, the number of regularly enrolled,
full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic
entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;
(ii) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles from any other school of the district and

incorporated territory is not involved in the district, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;

(iii) the superintendent of public instruction approves an application not to aggregate when conditions exist affecting transportation, such as poor roads, mountains, rivers, or other obstacles to travel, or when any other condition exists that would result in an unusual hardship to the pupils of the school if they were transported to another school, the number of regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the school must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district; or

(iv) two or more districts consolidate or annex under the provisions of 20-6-422 or 20-6-423, the ANB and the basic entitlements of the component districts must be calculated separately for a period of 3 years following the consolidation or annexation. Each district shall retain a percentage of its basic entitlement for 3 additional years as follows:

- (A) 75% of the basic entitlement for the fourth year;
- (B) 50% of the basic entitlement for the fifth year; and
- (C) 25% of the basic entitlement for the sixth year.
- (b) a junior high school has been approved and accredited as a junior high school, all of the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils of the junior high school must be considered as high school district pupils for ANB purposes;
- (c) a middle school has been approved and accredited, all pupils below the 7th grade must be considered elementary school pupils for ANB purposes and the 7th and 8th grade pupils must be considered high school pupils for ANB purposes; or
- (d) a school has not been accredited by the board of public education, the regularly enrolled, full-time pupils attending the nonaccredited school are not eligible for average number belonging calculation purposes, nor will an average number belonging for the nonaccredited school be used in determining the BASE funding program for the district.
- (9) The district shall provide the superintendent of public instruction with semiannual reports of school attendance, absence, and enrollment for regularly enrolled students, using a format determined by the superintendent.
- (10) (a) Except as provided in subsections (10)(b) and (10)(c), enrollment in a basic education program provided by the district through any combination of onsite or offsite instruction may be included for ANB purposes

only if the pupil is offered access to the complete range of educational services for the basic education program

required by the accreditation standards adopted by the board of public education. (b) Access to school programs and services for a student placed by the trustees in a private program for special education may be limited to the programs and services specified in an approved individual education plan supervised by the district. (c) Access to school programs and services for a student who is incarcerated in a facility, other than a youth detention center, may be limited to the programs and services provided by the district, at district expense, under an agreement with the incarcerating facility. (d) This subsection (10) may not be construed to require a school district to offer access to activities governed by an organization having jurisdiction over interscholastic activities, contests, and tournaments to a pupil who is not otherwise eligible under the rules of the organization. (11) A district may include only, for ANB purposes, an enrolled pupil who is otherwise eligible under this title and who is: (a) a resident of the district or a nonresident student admitted by trustees under a student attendance agreement and who is attending a school of the district; (b) unable to attend school due to because of a medical reason certified by a medical doctor and receiving individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at a home or facility that does not offer an educational program; (c) unable to attend school due to because of the student's incarceration in a facility, other than a youth detention center, and who is receiving individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at a home or facility that does not offer an educational program; (d) receiving special education and related services, other than day treatment, under a placement by the trustees at a private nonsectarian school or private program if the pupil's services are provided at the district's expense under an approved individual education plan supervised by the district; (e) participating in the running start program at district expense under 20-9-706; <del>(f) receiving educational services, provided by the district, using appropriately licensed district staff at</del> a private residential program or private residential facility licensed by the department of public health and human services; (g) enrolled in an educational program or course provided at district expense using electronic or offsite delivery methods, including but not limited to tutoring, distance learning programs, online programs, and technology delivered technology-delivered learning programs, while attending a school of the district or any other

nonsectarian offsite instructional setting with the approval of the trustees of the district. The pupil shall:
(i) meet the residency requirements for that district as provided in 1-1-215;
(ii) live in the district and must be eligible for educational services under the Individuals With Disabilities
Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794; or
(iii) attend school in the district under a mandatory attendance agreement as provided in 20-5-321.
(h) a resident of the district attending a Montana job corps program under an interlocal agreement with
the district under 20-9-707.
(12) (a) For an elementary or high school district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, the
district's maximum general fund budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated
using the current year ANB for all budget units or the 3-year average ANB for all budget units, whichever
generates the greatest maximum general fund budget.
(b) For a K-12 district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, the district's maximum general fund
budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated separately for the elementary and
high school programs pursuant to subsection (12)(a) and then combined.
(13) The term "3-year ANB" means an average ANB over the most recent 3-year period, calculated by:
(a) adding the ANB for the budget unit for the ensuing school fiscal year to the ANB for each of the
previous 2 school fiscal years; and
(b) dividing the sum calculated under subsection (13)(a) by three."

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 6. Effective date -- applicability.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007, and applies to school district budgets for school fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2007.

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