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K-12 Education Funding Preview



Where are we now

- \$2,334 start of the year
- \$2,220 actual
- If no federal stimulus funds, deduct \$300
- Should be \$2578 this year
- Should be \$2,720 in 2010-11
- \$317 million needed to restore EFA



What's ahead

- Session likely to revolve around the budget
- No new money
- Further cuts?

Impact of federal stimulus funding (FSF)

- \$17.5 million for school bus transportation
- \$17.3 million for 4-year-old kindergarten program
- \$4.5 million for assessment program
- \$13.4 million for National Board Certification Incentive
- \$300 BSC
- About \$175 million left
- Will need FSF to maintain/increase BSC



Advocacy talking points

- Hold harmless to further cuts
- Focus as much as possible of FSF into EFA
more flexibility
- Unique opportunity to reform funding

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Index of Taxpaying Ability



What is ITA?

- Determines how much state funding districts get under EFA
- Equalizing formula based on assessed value of property in school districts



Impact of Act 388

- Owner-occupied homes exempt from operations
- Resulted in assessed value not being a part of the calculation of the index
- Tilts the equalizing intent



House bill 3748

- Temporary fix with a goal of a long-term solution
- Holds the value for EFA purposes (same as fee-in-lieu of taxes)
- Quick action needed



Advocacy talking points

- Not reform - another unintended consequence of Act 388
- Doesn't add money, just shifts the pot
- Time is of the essence - pass H.3748 now

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Point of Sale



What is it?

- Eliminates Point of Sale component in Act 388
- Deflates actual values of property
- \$44 million impact
- \$19.6 million schools \$16.1 counties \$8.3 million cities
- Double funding whammy for schools
- Pushed by realtors
- Set for special order on Senate calendar



Advocacy talking points

- Oppose or slow down for further study
- Erodes even further limited revenues
- Time is of the essence
- Need comprehensive tax reform

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Charter School Parity



Possible legislation

- Proposal still in draft form
- Expand charter resources
- Possible components
- Facilities
- Race To The Top funding eligibility



Advocacy talking points

- No official position yet
- Need to be at the discussion table
- Share local impact of charter schools

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Public School Choice



What is it?

- On Senate calendar
- Possible voucher/tuition tax credit target
- Similar to vetoed bill
- Creates more choices within public schools
- Intra-district feasibility and recommendations
- Tuition-free, transportation funding



Advocacy talking points

- Support public school choice
- Choice options rests locally
- Maximum flexibility

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Education Accountability Update



Palmetto Assessment of Standards - PASS

- Education Oversight Committee
- PACT to PASS
- New performance levels
- More AYP schools
- EOC full committee meeting Monday
- New test, new ratings



School rating system

- Determine Absolute Rating, Growth Ratings
- Simulations in November
- Recommendations in December
- Report cards in February or March 2010



Advocacy talking points

- Met level on PASS similar to Basic on PACT
- Not lowering standards
- Fair, realistic rating system values growth
- No increase in rigor
- Five-year system review