Reaction to draft policy and fiscal recommendations by Peter Swanson

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Para	Language	Reaction	Suggested Change
1a	...but also addresses a new vision that is measured beyond reading...	This seems to leave it wide open to interpretation what achievement is	Keep paragraph 1, but eliminate "The new program must..." and all of subpara. a
1a (iii)	...and require inter-district collaboration...	If we hold districts to achievement standards, we should give them flexibility and the ability to withdraw if things are not working	Delete
1a (v)	...locally developed and establish clear student achievement goals...as well as other measureable goals...	The achievement goals should be standard across districts	Delete
1a (vi)	Eliminate exemption of Area Learning Centers	Not sure this was fully discussed by our presenters; may or may not be a good idea	Delete or change to "re-examine the exemption...."
2d	Convene districts receiving revenue annually	Is this a benefit or burden to MDE? Could it be electronic or recorded?	Clarify or delete
2f (I)	Districts must develop metrics...	The metrics should be standard so that like districts are treated alike and that all students are held to standards	Set the standards statewide and include academic measures
2f (ii)	...attendance, and parent surveys...	With open enrollment, parents (and students) vote with their feet	Set standards statewide and include academic measures
2f (iii)	MDE will withhold money...	This should be all AIM funds and should have specific measures of progress	Add requirement for continued funding either achievement or improvement, along the lines of literacy aid
3	Districts must...develop measureable goals	Again, the measures should be statewide and should measure achievement	Set the standards statewide and include academic measures
3a	*General*	The subparagraphs are a mixture of items that are student-based (80%) and administrative/other (20%)	Make magnets, etc., subject to same 80/20 rule

3a (iii)	Targeted 4-5 year old...	Literacy programs could be at other ages	Delete “4-5 year old”
3c	ii. Culturally Responsive.... vi. ...high quality cultural competency training....	This means many different things to different people	Add (vii) Professional development programs should present multiple perspectives on issues and respect the right of conscience of individual teachers
4	*General*	Very little was presented to the task force on this topic	We can ask the legislature to “examine” such an option

FISCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Para	Language	Reaction	Suggested Change
2	Level the fiscal disparities...	Looking at 2 and 2b together it seems like we start leveling in FY15	Make it clear that the initial (FY13) bite at the apple includes some flattening and leveling
2	*General*	The current system (and the proposed new tier) reward districts for higher concentrations of minorities	Add a subparagraph 2c that proposes adjusting criteria to include SES and ELL
3a	...through inter-district consolidation	As discussed above, there would need to be more presenters on this topic to wholeheartedly recommend it	Delete
5	*General*	We need to tie the specific bullets in the policy recommendation to these 80/20 categories; the current MDE guidelines require 60/40 split and unless transportation is “direct student value”, some districts are not currently in compliance	Recommend a glide path where districts exceeding 80/20 can move transportation costs to the 20% category