

Agency of Education Testimony - 2/20/18

An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity services provided to students who require additional support

Outstanding items:

1. Two systems:
 - a. The Agency opposes running multiple systems and recommends that all districts change systems at the same time.
 - i. There will be costs and risks administratively to run more than one system simultaneously. There will be more room for error at the Agency to administer
 - ii. As you heard this morning, the pilot may increase spending. SU/SDs will do what they need to get the most money.
2. We have some language on provided additional flexibility to use the dollars. It is our understanding it is incorporated into the new bill.
3. A task force will slow down rulemaking and increase the time, cost and effort of getting to the same point. Rulemaking builds in opportunities for stakeholder input.
 - a. Implementation date of FY 2021 allows time for a deliberative process in rule making.
 - b. Rather than a group to advise on rules specifically, the group should advise and work on the implementation of the bill.
4. The end date on the weighting study is currently December 15th, 2018. To complete the RFP process and the study will be a challenge. The Agency recommends that the due date for the report be extended later into February 2019.
5. Maintenance of effort
 - a. Is based on Expenditures not revenue – meaning that as long as the LEA spends the same amount to support special education students, regardless of whose funds (State or local) it can meet MOE.
 - b. As you heard, as districts work to implement best practices there might be some challenges – can be mitigated if they can demonstrate that the way that funds have been reinvested support students with Special Education needs.