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## Testimony on Agency of Education Positions Related to Changes in Pupil Weights

**Testimony To:** House Committee on Appropriations

**Respectfully Submitted By:** Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education

**Date:** April 21, 2022

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this topic. The agency provided technical support to the Task Force on Pupil Weighting. As part of its deliberations, the Task Force identified a need for six additional positions for the agency. These positions have appeared in various bills during the legislative session, and as the approach to pupil weights has become clearer, the number of positions was reduced from six to five.

### **Rationale for Five Additional Positions as a Result of the Work of the Task Force**

- 1 Position for English Language Learner (ELL) Support - The Task Force identified a need for the agency to expand its capacity to support districts in meeting the needs of ELL students. The agency currently has one ELL position. Historically, this position has been dedicated to managing the requirements of the federal program in this area.
- 2 Positions for Implementing the New Poverty Measure – The Task Force recommended a new approach to determining a student poverty measure using a universal household income declaration process. The agency would need additional staff to implement and manage this new process.
- 2 Positions to Support Pupil Weight Review and Implementation – The Task Force recommended pupil weights be reviewed more regularly. Additionally, changes to the pupil weights will introduce new complexity into the calculation of weights. The agency currently has one position dedicated to managing pupil weights and the calculation of district tax rates. The agency would need additional staff to better manage the calculation and oversight of this aspect of the education funding system.