



## Special Needs Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2010

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High Street Columbus, OH 43235

#### Members in Attendance

Robyn Essman, Chair

Thomas Babb

Dayvenia Chesney

David Huelsman

Jan Kennedy

James McClure

Dr. Jan Osborn

Dr. Roger Saurer

Ann Sheldon

#### Members Not in Attendance

State Rep. Randy Gardner

#### Staff

Daria Shams

Emily Nemeth

Carey McDonald

#### Opening

Chair Essman called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. and asked for approval of the minutes. A motion to accept meeting minutes from May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 was made by Dr. Saurer, seconded by Mr. Babb, and then unanimously accepted by all subcommittee members.

#### Special Education Discussion

Dr. Osborn facilitated a discussion regarding the funding goals for special education and the different components of Ohio's EBM in relation to special education funding, focusing specifically on the special education weights, the EBM ratio for special education and the classroom ratios determined in 1982. He was assisted by Margaret Burley, Executive Director of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, who acknowledged individuals in the room who were parents, advocates, mentors and administrators within special education community.

In the ensuing discussion, a concern was raised that the special education community is expected to work with both identified and students at-risk. The formula does not address those students not yet identified. **The subcommittee agreed on a recommendation that the special education provisions of the school funding formula be funded at 100 percent.**

Subcommittee members also discussed the EBM's 1:20 teacher/student ratio for special education teachers and how it could be changed in order to provide an adequate education for all special education students. Members considered funding the maximum of the ratios from 1982 and differentiate based on grade-year. No decision was formally made on these recommendations. **Subcommittee members did agree that the weights or cost studies of special education should be updated biennially to ensure that the formula reflects the true cost of special education services.**



Subcommittee members generated additional components related to special education that need to be considered in Ohio's EBM.

### **Related Services**

- Individuals included and their salaries: aides, specialists (psychologists, nurses, speech pathologists), transition coordinators, special education coordinators/directors of special education, behavior specialists, intervention specialists
- Note: The ODE Office of Exceptional Children will be generating a comprehensive list of related services providers.

### **Physical Services**

- Adaptive Equipment
- IEP spectrum: identification process, staff required for identification, administrative costs
- Educational materials: brail, large-print text books, smart-pens
- Transportation: aides, restraints

### **Catastrophic Aid**

- Not fully funded
- Floor could be adjusted to account for need

### **Preschool**

- Level of funding per unit outdated
- Number of units funded
- Identification of these students
- Transition and reevaluation moving from preschool to kindergarten
- How to account for related service providers
- What role does all-day kindergarten play?
- Autism Scholarship

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Long-term integrity and accuracy of the formula's special education provisions
- Post-Secondary Educational Options (PSEO)
- Funding for ESCs, non-publics, community schools, DDs and JVSDs
- Credit flexibility
- "Child find" activities and district of residence responsibilities
- Professional development for all staff interacting with IEP students
- Staff recruitment
- Education Challenge Factor

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Babb moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:08p.m. His motion was unanimously approved by subcommittee members.