

Oversight Panel Receives Recommendations On Proposed Changes To Lottery Rules, School Nurse Funding, Settling Local Funding Disputes

By Jacqueline Wyatt for NCASA

The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee met Monday to receive reports and recommendations on several education issues that have been reviewed by the General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division (PED). Full reports provided by the PED include the following:

1. [Options Exist for Increasing Lottery Proceeds for Education](#)
2. [Meeting Current Standards for School Nurses Statewide May Cost up to \\$79 Million Annually](#)
3. [Local Education Funding Dispute Resolution Process Is Effective and Economical, but Litigation Could Be Eliminated.](#)

A link to the PED presentations that summarize findings and recommendations from each report can be found [here](#).

PED Principal Program Evaluator Sean Hamel presented on the local education funding dispute resolution process involving school boards and county commissioners. He said his report determined the current process is effective and economical, although seldom used, and those that do use it seldom move on to litigation for ultimate resolution.

Hamel also outlined two recommendations for changes his report suggests that the General Assembly consider regarding settling funding disputes between school boards and county commissioners. Those include:

1. Revise the state law on settling local funding disputes by replacing the litigation phase with a default funding mechanism similar to those used in other states.
2. Establish a working group to develop and recommend statutory parameters for fund balances maintained by local boards of education.

His presentation materials, which outline his report's findings and these two recommendations for legislative action, can be found [here](#) on page 5.

These recommendations and others presented to the committee on Monday could move forward for consideration by the full General Assembly if the committee chooses to support legislation on these proposals for introduction in the 2018 short session that begins May 16.

The committee meets next on Feb. 12.