



COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

MEETING AGENDA

Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium

July 2, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Agenda Summary

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2014

Recommendation – The Division recommends that the Commission approve the meeting minutes for the April 3, 2014, Commission meeting.

2. 2013-2015 Academic Facilities Wealth Index

Presenter – Lynn Robertson, Senior Project Administrator, DPSAFT

Due to recently discovered property assessment errors in Pulaski County, the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation (*Division*) and the Arkansas Department of Education (*ADE*) have adjusted the Academic Facilities Wealth Index (*Wealth Index*) values computed in 2013. The Division used the 2013 Wealth Index values to compute state financial participation for the 2013-2015 Academic Facilities Partnership Program projects.

Based on the revised 2013 Wealth Index values, the Division proposes to adjust the state financial participation for all funded 2013-2015 Partnership Program projects. The adjustment will increase the state financial participation for all projects by an average of about 0.5%, and the total increase for all projects will be \$ 2,305,597.84. Subsequent to the Commission's funding of 2013-2015 Partnership Program projects, school districts have rescinded projects or reduced project costs so that overall state financial participation for 2013-2015 projects has been reduced over \$5 million. Therefore, the proposed increase in state financial participation for the 2013-2015 projects will not increase the state's obligations above prior commitments.

There is no action required by school districts. If approved, the Division will issue a Commissioner's Memo to notify school districts and provide a listing of all 2013-2015 projects and the increased state financial participation.

Recommendation – The Division recommends that the Commission approve the increase in state financial participation to all 2013-2015 funded Partnership Program projects based on the revised 2013 Academic Facilities Wealth Index.

3. 2015-2017 Partnership Program – Division Notification of Project Approval/Disapproval

Presenter – Murray Britton, Senior Project Administrator, DPSAFT

School districts submitted Partnership Program project applications for the 2015-2017 project funding cycle by March 1, 2014. Per statute, the Division must notify districts of the Division's decision on the application and, if applicable, the state financial participation no later than May 1, 2015. Based on the Division's preliminary review of the project applications and the projected Partnership Program budgets for FY 16 and FY 17, the Division anticipates the total state financial participation for the approved projects will exceed the available funds.

The Partnership Program rules provide a funding prioritization process to rank approved projects. To ensure prioritization of all approved projects, any district appeals of the Division's project determinations must be completed before the Division's compilation of final approved project rankings. Therefore, the Division proposes to provide school districts a written determination by certified letter of project approval or disapproval by July 10, 2014. If a project is disapproved, the determination will explain the reasons for disapproval. If a project is approved, the determination will provide the approved scope of the project. No state financial participation information will be provided with the July 2014 determination.

Before May 1, 2015, after project cost factors and Wealth Index values are updated, and appeals, if any, are resolved, the Division will provide the Commission a final list of approved projects prioritized per the Partnership Program rules.

There are several advantages to school districts with the nine-month "early" notification of project approval and scope: projects with successful appeals can be ranked for potential project funding in the current project funding cycle, districts that choose to self-fund disapproved projects will gain nine months to complete the project, and the funding contingencies for future appeals in the 2015-2017 project funding cycle can be greatly reduced.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

4. Act 1288 of 2013 Survey Status Report

Presenter – Ronny Brown, Public School Program Coordinator, DPSAFT

Act 1288 of 2013 required each school district to report school bus transportation data to the Division by July 1, 2014, to assist the General Assembly in determining whether to establish a maximum student transportation time. The Division issued Commissioner's Memo COM-14-040 on January 15, 2014, with instructions and information for districts to complete an on-line survey. The Division issued a reminder through a second Commissioner's Memo COM-14-063 on April 1, 2014.

Status Report – No Commission action required.