MREA K-12 School Funding Survey – Analysis of Survey Responses

The K-12 School Funding Survey requested answers to 20 questions, some of which had multiple parts. Of these 20 questions, half were simple 'yes' or 'no' or multiple-choice questions. The remaining were more open-ended questions and are more difficult to summarize. We have attempted to perform statistical summarization where possible by showing distribution of the numeric responses into as many as five groups for each question, and we have also provided some narrative discussion to shed additional light on the types of responses received. Fifty-two (52) school districts responded to the survey. The respondent for each district was very thorough in answering all of the questions posed in the survey.

2. How many teachers has your district lost in: 4. It last year? 2. 19 8. the last 5 years? 1. 10 2. 19 8. 12 8. the last 5 years? 1. 10 2. 16 3. Has your district seen a decline in the number of applicants for open positions over the last 5 years? 4. Has your district seen a decline in the number of applicants for open positions over the last 10 years? 4. Has your district seen a decline in the number of applicants for open positions over the last 10 years? 5. Has your district seen a decline in the quality of applicants recently as compared to 10 years ago? 6. Please rate the quality of current applicants compared to applicants for openings: 8. 5 years ago. 1. 20 1. 20 1. 44 8. 8 7. What pour district seen a decline in the number of applicants recently as compared to 10 years ago? 6. Please rate the quality of current applicants compared to applicants for openings: 8. 19 years ago. 1. 20 1. 20 1. 20 1. 20 2. 40 2. 41 2. 41 2. 41 3. 41 4. 41 4. 41 4. 41 4. 52 4. 42 4. 43 4. 43 4. 44 4. 53 4. 44 4. 58 4. 44 4. 58 4. 44 4. 8 4. 44 4. 8 4. 44 4. 8 4. 44 4. 8 4. 44 4. 8 4. 44 4. 8 4. 45 4. 46 6. 6 4. 41 4. 60 6. 6 6. 6 7. What percentage of your teachers are eligible for retirement: 4. 5 years ago. 3. 4 4. 12 2. 23 10 7. What percentage of your teachers are eligible for retirement: 4. 6 4. 16 6. 180% 81-100% 81-1	Question	Category A/ # Responses	Category B/ # Responses	Category C/ # Responses	Category D/ # Responses	Category E/ # Responses
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A. the last year? 22	2. How many teachers has your district lost in:	< 2	2-5	6-10	11-25	>25 *
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Section Compared to 10 years ago? 43 9	5. Has your district seen a decline in the quality	Yes	No			
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Note: Several were unable to determine at this time; three said that revenues will decrease (because of declining enrollment); some	A. in FY08.	10	15	6	6	3
	B. in FY09.	12	9	6	1	1
	Note: Several were unable to determine at this time	e; three said that	revenues will deci	rease (because of	declining enrolln	nent); some
	split the impact by Elementary and High School.			<u> </u>		<i>,</i>

10. Please estimate the percentage of your	0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100% *
needs that these new dollars meet within your district.	9	10	5	15	8
Note: Some indicated differing impacts in each of t	he next two fisca	al years.			
11. List the number of deviations ("dings") that your district has received for accreditation violations in the most recent year for which you have a report.	0	1	2-3	4-5	>5
	16	15	17	3	1
12. Have you experienced an increase in	Yes	No			
accreditation violations in the past 5 years?	28	24			
13. Will your district be offering full-time	Yes	No			
kindergarten as a result of the 2007 regular and special session funding provided?	28	24			
14. Estimate the percentage of funding that will	0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100% *
be provided to your district by the state for offering full-time kindergarten.	12	4	6	9	17
15. Was the need for your district to receive the	Yes	No			
new state funds available for offering full-time kindergarten a major factor in the final decision to provide these additional services within your district?	24	28			
16. Is your district able to efficiently and	Yes	No			
effectively make the best use of all "earmarked" funds provided by the state?	16	36			
17. Do you believe that schools should have	Yes	No			
been provided additional flexibility in the use of "earmarked" funds?	49	3			
18. Prior or during the 2007 regular and special	Yes	No			
session did your district receive any direct communications of any kind from the Governor's Office, the Governor's Budget Office regarding the impact that their proposals would have on your district?	5	47			
19. List the percent of increase of the base that	0-1%	1.1 – 2%	2.1 – 3%	3.1 – 4%	>4% *
your teachers will receive during the upcoming year.	6	2	13	16	11
Note: A couple of districts indicated that negotiation	ns are not yet co	omplete.			
20. What is the average annual percent of	0-1%	1.1 - 2%	2.1 - 3%	3.1 - 4%	>4%
increase on the base received by your teachers over the past 5 years?	3	9	23	15	2
			1		
What health insurance and other benefits are p A. District contribution	Full for			Nene	1
A. District contribution	employee	Less than full	Variable	None	
	25	18	8	1	
B. Employee contribution	Too variable to	quantify in any us	eful fashion; relate	ed to A, above.	

C. Deductible (Individual, not Family)	\$0-500	501-1,000	1,001-2,000	2,001-3,000	Other or Variable *
	20	18	6	0	4
D. Co-pay Split	60-40	70-30	80-20	Other or Variable *	
	1	7	28	9	
E. Maximum out-of-pocket	\$0-1,999	2,000-2,999	3,000-3,999	Other or Variable *	
	16	15	5	11	
F. Other benefits	Vision	Dental	Life	Rx	None
	13	16	13	4	18
lote: The counts for F. reflect each option indi	cated by each distric	t respondent; ther	efore they add to	greater than 52.	

^{*} Some of the responses to these questions were "outliers" which could not be assigned to any of the response categories assigned. Question 21 was particularly difficult to quantify because of the high degree of variability. See the Notes for additional discussion.