

From: Soura, Christian
To: Barton, Melanie <mbarton@eoc.sc.gov>
Date: 12/17/2013 10:43:51 AM
Subject: RE: Would this work?

OK, I took another look at this, so I'm going to "revise and extend"...

Everyone seems to agree on deleting 1.21, which is the General Fund version of the Assessment proviso, because no GF money goes to assessments anymore. That's also the proviso that suspends PSAT/PLAN reimbursements.

The Department has asked that the EIA Assessments proviso (1A.19) be amended to continue to suspend PSAT/PLAN reimbursements (by referencing §59-18-340 instead of referring to the program by name, as in 1.21).

In reading it again, if you're looking to un-suspend PSAT/PLAN reimbursements, then I think you want to delete 1.21 and amend 1A.19, but obviously, differently than the Department suggests. When I emailed earlier, I looked at the historical spend amount of \$439,298 as a guidepost and thought about an "up to" kind of structure. It's something of an open-ended program, though, since we don't know how much districts will spend and want to be reimbursed for. So on second thought, I think this does what you want:

1A.19. (SDE-EIA: Assessment) The department is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the purpose of paying for state assessment activities not completed by the end of the fiscal year including the scoring of the spring statewide accountability assessment. *PSAT/PLAN reimbursements shall resume in the current fiscal year.*

Arguably the highlighted sentence is superfluous, since if you eliminate the suspension, the reimbursements would naturally resume. But I think it's probably worth having – at least in FY 2014-15 – to demonstrate intent. Thanks.

CLS

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From: Barton, Melanie
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 11:05 AM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: Would this work?

Christian:

I've looked over the technology spread. I love the approach! I've attached the most recent poverty index for school districts as well as schools. It is slightly different than what you show.

Also, would the following work for the PSAT/PLAN Proviso change? Thanks for pointing out my error!

Delete Proviso 1.21. and Amend Proviso Amend Proviso 1A.19. that pertain to allocation of funds for PSAT/PLAN

1.21. (SDE: Assessment) For the current fiscal year PSAT/PLAN shall be suspended and savings generated

from suspension of PSAT/PLAN Reimbursement shall be allocated to the Education Finance Act. The department is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the purpose of paying for state assessment activities not completed by the end of the fiscal year including the scoring of the spring statewide accountability assessment.

1A.19. (SDE-EIA: Assessment) The department is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the purpose of paying for state assessment activities not completed by the end of the fiscal year including the scoring of the spring statewide accountability assessment. In addition assessment funds will be used for the cost of administering PSAT/PLAN.

Explanation: During the Great Recession, several programs were suspended and funds redirected to the Education Finance Act (EFA). Approximately \$439,298 in funds appropriated for the PSAT/PLAN assessments was redirected to the EFA in the prior and current fiscal years. To improve the college and career readiness of students, it is critical that students be given the opportunity to take these assessments. The PSAT gives feedback to students on their strengths and weaknesses, helps them prepare for the SAT, and allows them the opportunity to compete for National Merit scholarships. ACT's PLAN also gives 10th graders information on their college and career preparedness.

Sincerely,

Melanie Barton
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