

# Manvel Public School

Inspiring 21st Century Learners to Influence 22nd Century Successes



March 15, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the education committee,  
For the record, my name is Dave Wheeler and I am the Superintendent for Manvel Public Schools. I want to start by thanking you all for the incredibly difficult task you are undertaking with the funding of K-12 education. I can't imagine how difficult the theme of finances and equity can be for all of you.

In HB 1388 it appears that Manvel Public School, as a K-8 district could see their weighting factors decrease if this legislation is approved as it is currently written. On page 9, part 3, starting on line 13 states, *"The superintendent of public instruction shall impute an average daily membership for each school district that does not include a high school and ensure the imputed average daily membership to determine the school district size weighting factor under this section. To determine the imputed average daily membership, the superintendent of public instruction shall divide the school district's average daily membership by .60. The superintendent of public instruction shall adjust the school district size weighting factor for each school district that does not include a high school by multiplying the school district size weighting factor determined under subsection 2 by ninety-two percent."*

In AB 1388 as it is currently written we would see a our weighting factor decrease from 1.17 to 1.15 (p. 5 line 15) As I read the bill further it looks like our weighting factor would continue at 1.15 after the 2027-28 provided our enrollment stays in the same range as it is in 2021-22. (p. 8 line 5) That is a weighting factor we accept and understand. However, with the adjustment as it is written in the current bill our weighting factor would then be 1.058, considerably less than the 1.17 weighting factor we have been working with since 2013-14 and also quite a bit less than the 1.15 we would be working with starting next fall and well past 2027-28.

Had this bill been in place this past school year and assuming our deductions for being a transition maximum school as well as the deductions for contributions from property tax and other local revenue had stayed the same, we would have had \$221,494.52 less revenue in state aid had our district had to work with this formula in 2020-21.

I am testifying in person today because I would like the committee to understand that K-6/K-8 districts do not stop supporting students from their districts once they are enrolled in high school. We currently have a tuition levy of our constituents of 30.60 mills to create revenue for our students as they attend Grand Forks Public Schools. That mill levy created \$220,396.81 for this current school year. For the 2020-21 school year we will pay \$285,334.92 in tuition, \$5283.98

per student for 54 students. General fund money has been used in the past to offset the difference in the past in our district, this year that will amount to \$64,938.11. As of this testimony we have 62 students who will be enrolled in Grand Forks public schools in the fall of 2021.

With what could amount to \$221,000.00 plus reduction in our funding and next year projecting to pay tuition on 62 students, 8 more than this year, our general fund would be hit very hard with reducing our weighting factor to 1.058. Please reconsider the 92% piece of the weighting factor for K-6/K-8 schools in HB 1388.

Thank you,

Dave Wheeler  
Superintendent  
Manvel Public Schools