

1 **** BILL NO. ****

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ***."

6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8
9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. 20-9-306 -- Definitions.** (1) "BASE" means base amount for school
10 equity.

11 ...

12 (XX) "Total student with limited English proficiency payment" means the payment resulting from
13 multiplying \$XXXX for fiscal year 2027 [and \$XXXX for fiscal year 2028 and each succeeding fiscal year] by the
14 number of students who are identified as students with limited English proficiency as provided in [section 2].

15
16 OPTIONS FOR A PAYMENT AMOUNT:

17 1) Pick a dollar amount - could be a flat amount for any ELL student, or could be differentiated for EL
18 and HS like the per-ANB amount is

19 2) Pick a percentage or weight to apply to another possibly already-existing dollar amount - APA has
20 recommended the .25 weight for ELLs, literature maybe suggests .35 or .40 is closer to the cost; for the dollar
21 amount, the existing per-ANB amount(s), the calculated foundation amount, or some other dollar amount

22
23 A dollar amount as set by the Legislature

24 \$x for the 1st year and \$x times an inflation factor for the 2nd year

25 [\$x x 4715 students based on the number of EL students identified by OPI on the 2024-2025 State Report Card]

26 For a .25 weight in the existing funding formula, using the EL per-ANB amount for FY24 and FY25:

27 \$6,496 x .25 = \$1,624 and \$6,691 x .25 = \$1,673

28 \$1,624 x 4715 = \$7,657,160 \$1,673 x 4715 = \$7,888,195 [\$15,545,355]

1 For a .25 weight using APA's foundation amount for the 1st year and inflating by 3% in the 2nd year:

2 \$8,586 x .25 = \$2,147 and \$8,844 x .25 = \$2,211

3 \$2,147 x 4715 = \$10,123,105 \$2,211 x 4715 = \$10,424,865 [\$20,547,970]

4 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Student with limited English proficiency payment.** The state shall
5 provide a student with limited English proficiency payment for the purpose of providing additional resources and
6 services to students with limited English proficiency as defined in 20-1-101. The payment shall be calculated as
7 provided in 20-9-306 and shall be provided to public school districts as defined in 20-6-101 and 20-6-701.

8 (2) The payment is a component of the BASE budget of the district and must be deposited in the
9 general fund of the district.

10 (3) The district shall use the funds generated by the payment to:

11 (a) develop and implement new language instruction educational programs and academic content
12 instructional programs;

13 (b) carry out highly focused, innovative, locally developed activities to expand or enhance existing
14 language instruction educational programs and academic content instructional programs; and

15 (c) implement schoolwide programs within an individual school and systemwide programs within a
16 school district to restructure, reform, and upgrade programs, activities, and operations related to the language
17 instruction educational programs and academic content instructional programs.

18 (4) The office of public instruction shall track and report to the governor and the legislature in
19 accordance with 5-11-210 on:

20 (a) the status and progress made by students with limited English proficiency, including change in
21 status of standardized test scores, attendance and chronic absenteeism rates, graduation rates, and drop-out
22 rates; and

23 (b) the types of resources and services provided by the district to students with limited English
24 proficiency.

25 - END -