

SFIC Final Report Menu of Options

SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION (SFIC)
COMMISSION STAFF – JUNE 2026

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with our interim-long food theme, this document is structured as a menu of options. It is time to start instructing your staff as to what you want “cooked up” in your final report, as required under [5-20-301, MCA](#):

(8) The commission shall issue a report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 on the commission's findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation for amending the state school funding formula.

It might help to think about your **findings** as the things that you have learned that need to be communicated to others and your **recommendations** as actions driven by those findings; those actions *may* take the form of commission bill drafts recommended to the 2027 Legislature.

Staff provided [a memo](#) listing some possibilities for your consideration at your April meeting which spurred a lot of discussion, but less in the way of commission decisions and specific direction. This menu document is perhaps clearer instruction to “Please place your orders; the kitchen will be closing soon!”



STARTERS

These topics were discussed throughout the interim but did not constitute a full portion of the commission’s work.

CONTINUE THE PHASE I IEEWG/CONSTITUTIONAL PLAYERS WORK

This menu option will be discussed during an agenda item and a fuller description is (or will be) posted.

REVISE SFIC STATUTE

This menu option will be discussed during an agenda item and a fuller description is (or will be) posted.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

This menu option will be discussed during an agenda item and a fuller description is (or will be) posted.

MAIN COURSES

These items were discussed in greater depth over the interim and you indicated an appetite to include them in some form in your order. Staff have prepared more information and options for you to consider for each of these and fuller descriptions are (or will be) posted.

REVISE THE INFLATIONARY ADJUSTMENT

REVISE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

REVISE FACILITIES FUNDING

CHEF'S SPECIALS

You characterized these potential items at your April meeting as being informed by the Successful School District Study, and if you want to include specific findings and recommendations related to these in your report, they will need to be formulated following APA's presentation and analysis of that study.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SMALL, ISOLATED, NECESSARY DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

BETTER ALIGNMENT WITH DEFINITION UNDER 20-9-309 (G&T, ELL, 504 PLANS)

AT-RISK STUDENTS AND DE-COUPLING FROM FEDERAL TITLE I

ADJUSTING BASIC AND PER-ANB ENTITLEMENTS (FOUNDATION AMOUNT; GRADE-LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS; ETC.)

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE (ELIMINATE THE DECREMENT; REPLACE 80/20 WITH 100/125; ETC.)

REGIONAL COST ADJUSTMENTS

ORDERING "OFF THE MENU"

Like any high-end, customer-driven restaurant, we are happy to create custom dishes for you, but you will need to clearly articulate what you want and how you want it "cooked". If you are considering this, please start formulating your orders in advance of the June 17-18 meeting (staff are happy to work with you on this).