

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

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ***; AMENDING SECTION 20-9-328, MCA."

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

8
9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. 20-9-306 -- Definitions.** As used in this title, unless the context clearly
10 indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

11 (1) "BASE" means base amount for school equity.

12 ...

13 (13) "Total at-risk student payment" means the payment resulting from ~~the distribution of any funds~~
14 ~~appropriated for the purposes of multiplying \$2,125 for fiscal year 2027 and \$2,189 for succeeding fiscal years~~
15 ~~by the number of eligible students as provided in~~ 20-9-328.

16
17 If roughly 75,000 students are individually eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, then the statewide
18 cost will be about \$160M in FY 2027.

19
20 **Section 2.** Section 20-9-328, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"20-9-328. At-risk student payment.** (1) The state shall provide an at-risk student payment to public
22 school districts, as defined in 20-6-101 and 20-6-701, for at-risk students, as defined in 20-1-101 and referred
23 to in 20-9-309.

24 (2) The at-risk student payment ~~must be distributed to public school districts by the office of public~~
25 ~~instruction in the same manner that the office of public instruction allocates the funds received under 20 U.S.C.~~
26 ~~6332, et seq. The office of public instruction shall prorate payments to districts based upon the available~~
27 ~~appropriation is calculated as provided in 20-9-306, using the number of students enrolled in the district in the~~
28 ~~prior year who are individually eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federal National School Lunch~~

1 Program, including those individually eligible as determined through direct certification as approved by the
2 United States Department of Agriculture.

3 (3) The office of public instruction shall report to the governor and the legislature in accordance
4 with 5-11-210 on the change in status of standardized test scores, graduation rates, and drop-out rates of at-
5 risk students."

6 - END -

DRAFT