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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairwoman Baumgardner and the Senate Committee on Education
From: Nick Myers, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 4, 2020
Subject: Senate Bill 271 and Summary of the High-Density At-Risk Student Weighting

Senate Bill 271

Current law sunsets the high-density at-risk student weighting on July 1, 2020. SB 271 would continue such weighting beyond July 1, 2020, by striking the sunset provision.

Summary of the High-Density At-Risk Student Weighting

The high-density at-risk student weighting provides a school finance formula weighting to school districts based upon the enrollment of at-risk (free lunch) students. K.S.A. 72-5151 authorizes the weighting to be determined at either the district level or at the individual school building level of a district. School districts qualify to receive the weighting if the district as a whole or a school building in the district has an enrollment of at least 35% free lunch students. A school district is provided the greater amount of the calculation done at the district level or the school building level. (See page 2 for a table that describes the high-density at-risk student weighting calculation).

Current law requires school districts to expend funds generated by the high-density at-risk student weighting on the at-risk best practices developed by the State Board of Education pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5153(d). If a school district does not spend the funds on such best practices the State Board is required to notify the district to spend such funds on the best practices or to show improvement within five years. If the school fails to do either of these, the school would be prohibited from receiving the high-density at-risk weighting in the succeeding school year.

DISTRICT LEVEL CALCULATION

	Weighting Formula	Description
35% - 49.9% Free Lunch in District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtract 35% • Multiply by 0.7 • Multiply by enrollment of free lunch students enrolled in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of the weighting in this range increases as the % of free lunch students increase, for example the weighting applied to each free lunch student in the district would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0.0 for 35% enrollment ○ 0.0525 for 42.5% enrollment ○ 0.1049 for 49.9% enrollment
50% or more Free Lunch in District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiply number of free lunch students enrolled in the district by 0.105. 	

BUILDING LEVEL CALCULATION

	Weighting Formula	Description
35% - 49.9% Free Lunch in School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtract 35% • Multiply by 0.7 • Multiply by enrollment of free lunch students enrolled in the school building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of the weighting in this range increases as the % of free lunch students increase, for example, the weighting applied to each free lunch student in a building would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0.0 for 35% enrollment ○ 0.0525 for 42.5% enrollment ○ 0.1049 for 49.9% enrollment
50% or more Free Lunch in School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiply number of free lunch students enrolled in the school building by 0.105. 	
Calculate Weighting for Every Qualifying School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add up the weighting amounts determined for each qualifying school building to determine the district weighting. 	