



South Dakota Legislature

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations

Representative Justin Cronin, Chair

Senator Deb Peters, Vice Chair

March 31, 2015

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary
Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2015 Session

Dear Dr. Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2015 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 30, 2015.

While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The FY2015 Supplemental Appropriations Act (SB55) includes a decrease of \$57,341 in general funds available to the postsecondary technical institutes in FY15. The Governor had originally recommended a decrease in the amount of \$1,057,341 due to lower-than-budgeted student enrollment in the current fiscal year. The Committee recognizes there will be approximately one million dollars in general funds available due to the lower enrollment numbers, and issues this Letter of Intent in regards to these funds.

It is the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations that the one-time funding be used to enhance programs that address high-need workforce areas and be distributed in the same manner in which the formula funds will be distributed to the institutes for FY2016. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Department of Education to distribute the funds based on the funding formula per administrative rule 24:10:42:28 in effect for FY2016 to the postsecondary technical institutes.

The postsecondary technical institutes must provide a report by May 1, 2015 detailing the planned program enhancements and the high-need workforce areas to be addressed. On December 15, 2015 the postsecondary technical institutes must provide an accounting of the expenditure of the funds detailing the program enhancements made and the high-need workforce areas addressed.

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It is further the intent of the Committee that the postsecondary technical institutes be available to provide their five-year strategic and financial plans to the Committee at a 2015 interim meeting (date to be determined).

Thank you for your cooperation.

/ S / Representative Justin Cronin

/ S / Senator Deb Peters

Representative Justin Cronin
Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

Senator Deb Peters
Vice Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management