



**MINIMUM SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
 BASIC SCHOOL PROGRAM

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Necessarily Existent Small Schools

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## Necessarily Existent Small Schools

2020 GS | Not All Rural Schools are Necessarily Existent

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<p><i>Highlights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Origins from Original MSP           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Weighting to Recognize Higher Cost</li> <li>• Rural   NESS   Isolated</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ \$34.4 million in FY 2021 Base</li> <li>○ Statute (53F-2-304)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Size Limits by Type</li> <li>• Board to Establish Qualifying Standards</li> <li>• Develop Regression Formula to Distribute WPU</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Board Rule (R277-445) NESS Schools           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “One-Way Bus Travel” from Assigned School to Nearest District School of the Same Type:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 45 Minutes for Students in Grades K-6</li> <li>▪ 75 Minutes for Students in Grades 7-12</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Questions &amp; Observations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should Statute Provide More Direction?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Requirements</li> <li>• Additional School Types   Adjust Size Limits</li> <li>• Distance Requirements – Between Schools or Student Travel Times</li> <li>• Population Density   LEA Size   Isolation</li> <li>• Weighing State Interests vs Local Interests               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect of District Boundaries</li> <li>▪ Desire to Keep a “Community School”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Necessarily Existent Small Schools: 2019 General Session

*Intent Language*

*State Board of Education  
to Make Initial Report*

(1) (a) The Legislature intends that the State Board of Education study the Necessarily Existent Small Schools distribution formula, including:

(i) the recalculation of the regression formulas used to distribute program weighted pupil units;

(ii) ways to address the unique needs of geographically isolated schools;

(iii) school size limits identified in statute; and

(iv) school qualification requirements.

(b) The Legislature further intends that the State Board of Education report to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, regarding the study described in Subsection

(1)(a), with:

(i) a progress update on or before October 31, 2019; and

(ii) a final report on or before October 31, 2020.



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## NESS – Recommendations 2020 GS | MSP Basic School Program

### *Schools with Isolating Conditions*

- Some Remote Schools Do Not Qualify for NESS
  - 6 “Isolated” Schools in 2019
  - Mostly Elementary Schools
  - All Due to Enrollment Size
    - Enrollment Greater than 160 Students
  - Continue to Have Higher Costs Due to Size and Geographic Isolation

### *Recommendation*

- We Recommend the following:
  - \$530,000 Ongoing to Fund WPU’s for “Isolating Conditions”
    - 150 WPU’s @ \$3,532 WPU Value
  - Amend Statute to Allow the State Board of Education to do the Following:
    - Define Isolating Conditions
    - Allocate up to 150 WPU’s to LEAs to Address Factors of School Isolation
    - Limit to Schools That **Do Not** Qualify for NESS due to Formula Limits (School Size or Travel Time)
    - Review Schools with Isolating Conditions Every 5 Years



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