

Ann Parks, MDE
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Draft Summary on Evaluating Use of Integration Revenue

All districts currently receiving integration revenue are required to submit biennial evaluation reports to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) documenting the amount of progress made toward each district's integration plan goals (Minn. Stat. 124D.86 Subp. 1b, (5)). MDE is currently developing a system for disseminating, gathering, and analyzing reliable and consistent data across districts to effectively examine districts' use of integration revenue relative to their ability to make progress integration goals. These goals include district-specific integration plan goals and the broader integration revenue program goals of having increased and sustained interracial contacts and improved educational opportunities and outcomes designed to close the achievement gap.

MDE's integration evaluation process is designed to do the following:

- evaluate the successes and failures of current integration initiatives in order to provide feedback and support for improving districts' use of integration revenue to achieve integration goals,
- evaluate the cost-effectiveness of districts' use of integration revenue to provide opportunities designed to achieve integration goals, and
- inform policy discussions at state and local levels by analyzing districts' ability to efficiently and effectively use integration revenue to achieve integration program goals.

Relevant data will include, but not be limited to, longitudinal trends of proficiency rates, growth rates, graduation rates, disciplinary actions, and indicators of college/career readiness disaggregated by racial subgroups as well as revenue spent on integration activities and transportation. The review, verification, and interpretation of the data will be a dynamic, collaborative process between MDE evaluation experts and districts as MDE works to build the capacity of districts to use the data in an ongoing process of formative evaluation.

Attention will be given to assuring the evaluation reports are understandable and fair in addressing district needs across the state. All districts receiving integration revenue within a biennium will be informed of their explicit obligations for gathering, reporting, and interpreting data specific to integration initiatives. A centralized evaluation process facilitated by MDE

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evaluation staff will ensure greater fiscal efficiencies by avoiding additional expenditures of integration revenue at the district level to hire external evaluators. In this way, MDE's integration evaluation process will also achieve greater relevance of data input and validity of findings.

In summary, the process developed by MDE will provide the data needed to analyze districts' use of integration revenue to effectively and efficiently address the goals of increasing interracial student contacts and providing opportunities to close the achievement gap.

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