

FY 2015 Quality Basic Education Formula Adjustment Survey Results Summary

Only the school district responses are considered in the Summary and Results below. The commission charter school responses are maintained separately.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 70% of all school districts reported either decreasing or eliminating furlough days in FY 2015.
- 23% of all school districts had already eliminated furlough days in FY 2014.
- Approximately 93% of all school districts responded that furloughs were either reduced, eliminated or avoided due to the reduction in the formula adjustment.
- Approximately 21% of all school districts reduced class sizes.
- Approximately 19% of all school districts reduced, eliminated, or maintained zero furloughs AND reduced class sizes.

RESULTS

Furlough Days

- **116** (64%) of the school districts reduced furlough days in FY 2015 compared to the number of furlough days in FY 2014.
- Of those 116 school districts, 65 reduced the number of furlough days to ZERO in FY 2015.
- **41** (23%) of the school districts did not have furlough days in FY 2014 or FY 2015.
- **15** (8%) of the school districts did not reduce the number of furlough days that were reported for FY 2014. Of these 15 districts that did not reduce the number of furlough days,
 - o **5** districts reported that additional furlough days were avoided.
 - Banks, Cook, Harris, Lamar, and Jenkins
 - o **3** districts reported that additional positions were added.
 - Baker, Jasper, and Randolph
 - o **1** district reported additional positions and salary increases added.
 - Dalton City
 - o **2** districts reported increased instructional time (but not a decrease in furloughs)
 - Crawford, and Upson
 - o **3** districts either reported deficits or significant decline in fund balance over the years and using the formula adjustment reduction to restore fund balance.
 - Commerce City, Stewart, and Warren
- **8** (4%) of the school districts did not respond directly to the question regarding furlough days, however, we were able to establish the information below based on answers provided in other sections of the survey. Of the details below, 5 (3%) of the school districts listed below indicated furlough days were reduced in another section of the survey.
 - o Dooly – Indicated that Calendar Days were increased by 4 days. (**Furlough Reduction**)
 - o Echols – Indicated that the formula adjustment reduction was utilized for a one-time supplemental payment to employees.
 - o Fannin – Indicated that the formula adjustment reduction was utilized for a one-time supplement payment to all employees, distributed in September 2014.
 - o Gilmer – Reduced Class Sizes, increased calendar days by 2 days (**Furlough Reduction**), added additional teachers for ESOL and SPED.
 - o Jefferson – Increased professional days by 3 days. (**Furlough Reduction**)
 - o Lincoln – Increased calendar days by 3 days (1 day professional, 2 days instructional). (**Furlough Reduction**). Also gave a one-time 1% pay bonus.
 - o Tattnell – Increased professional calendar days by 4 days. (**Furlough Reduction**).
 - o Washington – Indicated 900,000 of Fund Balance was used in FY 2014 to balance the budget, the reduction of the formula adjustment in FY 2015 went toward balancing the budget and rising Special Education general costs.
- In Summary, 167 (93%) of the school districts reported decreasing, eliminating, or avoiding furlough days in FY 2015. 13 (7%) school districts did not decrease or avoid furloughs in FY 2015. Of those 13 school districts that did not decrease, eliminate or avoid furloughs, 8 (4%) of the school districts

either added positions, increased salaries, or increased instructional time; 4 (2%) of the school districts reported increased costs or replenishing a depleted fund balance/deficit; and 1 (1%) school district had no budgetary actions because the net effect of the formula adjustment reduction and equalization decrease left their district with less budgeted funds in FY 2015. That leaves 3 (2%) districts for whom we were not able to establish an impact on furlough days. Of those 3, 2 indicated salary raises, and 1 district indicated rising Special Education general costs and ability to balance the budget.