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Chiefs,

I apologize for how late I am in responding to you with a request that was made during the summit. When we were discussing what your legislative agenda would be in your respective states for 2012, a few chiefs mentioned that they were going to tackle some funding formula issues in their next legislative session.

I mentioned a policy that Florida put in place in several years ago called the Equity in School Level Funding Act. It basically was a policy (patterned after the United Kingdom) that requires districts to pass through at least 90% of the funds that an individual school generates to that school. Florida had noticed a great deal of inequity in how much school districts decided to pass through to each school.

In addition to this policy of requiring an "equitable" pass through, was a concept to help incentivize principal efficiency at the school level. We heard principals tell us that no matter how efficient he/she tried to be to save funds, the district would just sweep any unspent funds at the end of the year. This created an incentive to spend all the funds sent to the

school. For example, principals that wanted to save money in one area in order to add technology to their school, could not do so.

As part of the Equity in School Level Funding Act, we created a provision that would not allow districts to sweep any unused funds that were part of the “required pass through.”

Attached is a copy of the original law and a revision that was made in 2003. I hope it is helpful to any of you who are considering funding policies next session.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays.

Patricia