

Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education

October 2026 | Input Synthesis & Emerging Themes

Operations provide the foundation for the work of schools, from paying employees and managing budgets to transporting students and maintaining technology. In examining Charge 2: Administrative Operations, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education considered how state decisions shape districts' ability to carry out these responsibilities, recognizing differences in local staffing, resources, and access to expertise. Discussions centered on where state action could ease operational demands and strengthen the services that support teaching and learning.

1. **Expand District Expertise and Regional Support**

- a) **Operational Leadership Preparation** | Provide state-funded fellowships, hands-on preparation, and mentoring for aspiring and current district leaders in finance, human resources, transportation, technology, and other essential functions.
- b) **Regional Service Assessment and Pilots** | Strengthen regional support for districts by (1) conducting a statewide needs assessment to identify district needs and evaluate current regional services; and by (2) using the findings to assess feasibility and costs and develop voluntary shared service pilots in areas such as finance, human resources, transportation, technology, and special education. Evaluate service quality, access, and costs before expanding.
- c) **Shared Specialists** | Provide state funding and incentives for districts to voluntarily share specialized staff when an individual district does not need or cannot sustain a full-time position.
- d) **Funding for Essential Staffing and Services** | Review and update state funding for essential district functions based on staffing needs, workload, service costs, and differences across districts.

2. **Improve Efficiency of State and District Processes**

- a. **District Flexibility** | Revise state funding rules and other requirements to provide districts with the flexibilities available to charter schools, enabling districts to use resources and respond to local needs.
- b. **Streamlined State Reporting** | Coordinate and/or simplify state reporting requirements across all state agencies to reduce administrative burden on schools and districts, eliminate duplication, and make better use of available resources.
- c. **Statewide Cooperative Purchasing** | Expand cooperative purchasing, vendor pricing transparency, and state contracts to help districts obtain better prices and reduce procurement costs.
- d. **AI for Administrative Innovation** | Provide state funding and technical expertise for districts to develop, adapt, and test AI tools and approaches tailored to local operational needs.
- e. **District-Charter School Cooperation** | Facilitate coordination between district and charter school administrations to address shared operational challenges and improve efficiencies, including developing a consistent process for charter school invoicing of districts.

This synthesis captures themes, observations, questions, and perspectives from member discussions to inform further deliberation and recommendation development. It does not represent Commission consensus, findings, or approved recommendations.