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Education and Local Government Interim Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education and Local Government Interim Committee
FROM: Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
RE: Options to address 2013 School Transportation Audit
DATE: March 18, 2016

After coordinating with the School Funding Interim Commission, ELG has requested information on addressing the recommendation directed to the Legislature in the Legislative Audit Division's 2013 School Transportation Funding and Safety Performance Audit Report. The full report (copies of which were distributed to ELG at its January meeting and are linked in the attached document) provides an excellent overview of school transportation funding in Montana and briefly outlines funding approaches used by other states. The report's third recommendation was that the Montana Legislature review the effects of the statutory reimbursement schedule to determine if changes are necessary to promote efficiency, simplicity, or equity.

The 2013-2014 ELG requested a staff brief on the issues identified in the audit report, including options to address the issues. This brief was presented to ELG at its April 2014 meeting, and the committee decided that with a decennial review of Montana school funding coming this interim to not take action at that time. I am attaching the brief presented to last interim's ELG for your review. Please let me know if you have any questions.