



OFFICE OF THE
Attorney General
STATE CAPITOL
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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August 8, 1975

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ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dr. George L. Hall
Executive Director
State Board of Directors for
Community Colleges of Arizona
1535 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Dr. Hall:

This letter is in response to your letter request dated August 1, 1975, for an opinion of this office concerning the propriety of the method adopted by the State Board of Directors for Community Colleges of Arizona to determine "the operational expenses per capita per annum" as that phrase is used in A.R.S. § 15-693. That section pertains to, among other things, the amount that a county of a student's residence must reimburse a community college district located out of the county for the attendance of that student at one of the district's schools.

It is our understanding that your request is limited solely to the amount to be charged a county with respect to one of its resident students who enrolls in extension courses offered in that county by a community college district which is located in another county. Putting it another way, your request does not relate to students from one county who enroll in courses being offered in another county by a community college district located in that other county. It is our further understanding that the extension courses are only offered in an area which is not part of an established community college district.

Subsection B of A.R.S. § 15-693 states, in relevant part, as follows:

It shall be the obligation of the county of the student's residence to reimburse the district [in which the student attends school] an amount equal to the operational expenses per capita per annum, as determined by the board, minus the amount of average state aid per capita per annum. . . .



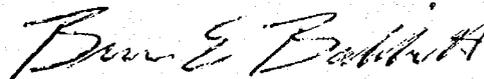
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That subsection then further provides that the amount of average state aid per capita per annum, for the purpose of making the calculations required by the above-quoted provision, shall be determined by dividing the total amount of state aid, as provided in A.R.S. § 15-690, by the total number of full-time equivalent students.

It is our understanding, based upon a review of your letter and our conversations with you, that the Board has determined the total direct costs incurred by the community college districts in offering the extension courses, and has added thereto an additional amount to cover the indirect overhead expenses which the districts incur in connection with offering such courses. A calculation was then made concerning the state aid properly allocable to those courses. After both of those figures were determined, the second was subtracted from the first to arrive at the net expense to the offering district. The remainder was then divided by the total credit hours taken in the extension courses to arrive at a net cost for each such credit hour.

Based upon our review of the above-mentioned statute, and for the reasons set forth in your letter, we believe that the method utilized by the State Board to make the calculations required by A.R.S. § 15-693, as set forth above and in your letter, is proper and within the discretion given to the State Board by that statute.

Sincerely,



BRUCE E. BABBITT
Attorney General

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