

State aid for schools should match local funding, committee recommends

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The old formula for state aid to public schools should be replaced by an approach that would guarantee equal state dollars for every dollar of local tax effort, a legislative committee has decided.

The bipartisan Education Review Committee met Friday, facing a Dec. 15 deadline for preparation of a package of recommendations on school financing for the 111th General Assembly.

— The present school foundation formula has been roundly criticized for failing to provide an equal flow of state dollars to local school districts.

— The state money goes to schools on a sliding scale favoring low tax effort districts over high effort areas. As a result, observed State Rep. Marcus Roberto, D-62-Ravenna, "There is no incentive for districts to increase their millage (tax levy)."

The committee has decided to develop a guaranteed equal yield formula whereby the state would match local tax dollars up to a designated ceiling. Districts in high tax base areas would pay a greater local share.

Dr. Robert Goettel, a consultant from the Syracuse University Research Corp., said equal yield would permit local districts to "determine what their millage rates will be" and make the state share "responsive to the local tax effort."

Under the current system, local districts are assessed a 25 mill charge-off toward a basic \$680 per pupil, with the state paying the rest of the tab. The state

does not make up the difference in districts where less than 25 mills are levied.

State aid continued to increase steadily in the 1973-74 school year but was still a

little under 40 per cent. The ideal with equal yield would be a 50-50 state-local share.

The committee was to meet again here today and Sunday