

New school aid formula gets panel nod

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Senate Education Committee early today recommended passage of a new state school aid formula designed to increase and equalize subsidies on the basis of local taxing effort.

The guaranteed equal yield aid bill was voted out of the Democratic-controlled committee 7-2 shortly after 1 a.m., despite extensive testimony against it a series of changes inserted through the efforts of a powerful teachers' lobby.

Chairman Morris M. Jackson, D-21 Cleveland,

said the full Senate would vote Wednesday on the bill.

Supporters of the new formula contend it will offset disparities in tax valuations among school districts and guarantee an equal return of state dollars per pupil for equal local taxing effort.

A spokesman for Toledo schools, however, claimed the district would have to close its doors in 1976 if the bill retained a provision earmarking 45 per cent of all new basic aid money for teachers and 15 per cent for other employees.

The Ohio Education Association won subcommittee approval last week for the salary increase as well as a series of other amendments aimed at increasing teacher-student ratios and closing schools during teachers' strikes.

The OEA amendments were also opposed during hearings by spokesmen for school administrators and local school boards, as well as individual witnesses. All of the witnesses said they agreed with the basic equal yield concept.

Vice Chairman Donald J.

Pease, who supported the OEA position, acknowledged that the "100 per cent backing" for the bill among educators had disintegrated.

Pease gained approval of an amendment reinstating a \$5,500 increase over four years for a classroom unit allowance for special and vocational education. The subcommittee had cut it to \$4,000.

The committee defeated several other amendments feared to eliminate or water down the OEA-supported changes in the bill.

John Hall, spokesman for the 80,000-strong teachers' group, hinted the OEA might be willing to give up some of its amendments to win ultimate approval for the basic formula in the full Senate and House.

Sen. Oakley C. Collins, R-17 Ironton, joined Democrats in voting for the measure.

The proposal in its final form was opposed by Sens. Ben M. Gaeth, R-1 Defiance and Thomas A. Van Meter, R-19 Ashland.

The formula would guarantee local districts a state return of \$48 per pupil per "state equalized mill" for each of the first 20 mills levied in a district for school operation. Additional millage levied locally from 20 and 30 mills would bring \$42 state dollars per pupil per mill.

Nothing would be paid for more than 30 mills.

School districts would have to levy at least 22 mills to qualify for the program.