



Cruz-Guzman v. State of Minnesota and HF 2471

Daron Korte, J.D. – Assistant Commissioner

April 27, 2021

Case filed in November 2015, in Hennepin County District Court

Parties:

- ***Plaintiffs:*** Certain schoolchildren in Minneapolis, St. Paul
- ***Defendants:*** MDE, MDE Comm’r, MN House, MN Senate, “State of Minnesota”
- ***Intervenor-Defendants:*** Three charter schools (Friendship Academy, Higher Ground Academy, Paladin Academy)

Certified as class action on behalf of certain Minneapolis and St. Paul students

Dismissed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals in 2017

- Held case was not justiciable

Reinstated by the State Supreme Court in 2018

- Legislature determines system of education
- Court determines whether system is adequate under the Constitution
- Legislature remains a party

Mediation ordered by the Court

Mediation commenced March 2019

Goals of mediation:

- Resolve a lawsuit
- Improve educational opportunities
- Shape the outcome of the litigation

Significant progress toward agreement between MDE and Plaintiffs

House File 2471 represents that agreement

Goals of legislation:

- Increasing integration in Minnesota schools, through inter-district choice, enhanced integration programs, and magnet schools
- Increasing equity and achievement through best practices, including culturally responsive staff, programming and curriculum, and enhanced, multi-factored accountability

MDE Supports Passage:

- Allows all parties to control the outcome
- Avoids the time and expense of a trial

Five Main Elements

- Tiered Model for Identifying Students Using Multiple Indicators
- Culturally Responsive, Teaching, Learning, Integration, and Inclusion Program and Revenue
- Voluntary, Metro-wide Interdistrict Integration Program
- Diverse Magnet School Program
- Evidence Based Strategies and Family Information System

HF 2471 Cost Estimates

- Tiered Model for Identifying Students Using Multiple Indicators
 - FY22-23: \$500k, FY24-25: \$50k
- Culturally Responsive, Teaching, Learning, Integration, and Inclusion Program
 - FY22-23: \$100m, FY24-25: \$100m
- Voluntary, Metro-wide Interdistrict Integration Program:
 - FY22-23: \$5.5m, FY24-25: \$7m

HF 2471 Cost Estimates

- Diverse Magnet School Program
 - FY22-23: \$18.5m, FY24-25: \$20m
- Evidence Based Strategies and Family Information System
 - FY22-23: \$175k, FY24-25: \$100k

Total Package*: FY22-23: \$125m, FY24-25: \$127m

*Rounded to nearest million