

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1762
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 25, 2015

Authors: Erickson

Subject: English Learner Revenue; Incentive Aid

Analyst: Tim Strom

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

School districts and charter schools receive English learner (EL) revenue to provide instruction to students with limited English skills. Programs may include bilingual programs or English-as-a-second-language (ESL) programs. The state has provided funding for EL programs since 1980. Under current law, an English learner student is eligible for funding for up to six years of services.

There are two parts to the EL portion of basic skills revenue: the first part, basic formula aid, equals \$704 per EL pupil; the second part of the EL formula equals \$250 per EL pupil times the school district's EL concentration formula. A school district with at least one student eligible for EL services has a statutorily assigned minimum EL pupil count of 20.

This bill keeps in place the current English learner formula and adds an incentive aid component to the formula, setting the aid equal to \$1,000 per pupil for each student who reaches proficiency after the first year of English learner instruction. This maximum amount of incentive aid is reduced by \$200 for each year thereafter that it takes the English learner student to reach proficiency.

Section

- 1 English learner.** Defines a “newly proficient” English learner as a pupil who attains English language proficiency in five or fewer years.
- 2 School district English learner revenue.** Creates a new incentive formula for English learner students and sets the aid equal to \$1,000 per pupil for each student who reaches

Section

proficiency after the first year of English learner instruction, \$800 for students who reach proficiency after the second year, and reduces the maximum aid amount by \$200 per pupil for each year thereafter that it takes the English learner student to reach proficiency.

- 3** **Basic skills revenue.** Adds the newly proficient English learner revenue as the third component of English learner revenue under the basic skills component of general education revenue.