

Subject School Library Media Specialists

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Date February 25, 2018

Overview

H.F. 247 creates a grant program to support the hiring of additional school library media specialists. The grants are designed as matching grants running for a period of six years. School districts, charter schools, and Bureau of Indian Education Tribal Contract Schools are eligible to apply for grants.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Library media specialist grant program.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines eligible library media specialists as licensed school library media specialists and other persons actively seeking that license. Defines “new position” as an expansion over the number of library media specialists employed by the district during the 2018-2019 school year.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Purpose. States the goals of the grant program are to ensure that students receive effective support and to address the shortage of library media specialists within Minnesota’s schools.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Grant eligibility and application. Authorizes a school district, charter school, or tribal contract school to apply for a grant in the form and manner specified by the commissioner of education. Requires the commissioner to first award grants to schools without library media specialists and to equitably award grants among the geographic regions of the state.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Allowed uses. Requires grants to be used to hire new Library Media Specialists. Requires grant recipients in the metropolitan area to match the grants \$1 for \$1 for the first four years of the grant and provide \$3 of local match for each dollar of the grant in years five and six of the grant. Provides the grants to nonmetropolitan recipients without a local match for the first three years. Sets the local match equal to \$1 for every \$3 of the grant in the fourth year, \$1 to \$1 in the fifth year, and \$3 of local match for every dollar of the state grant in year six.</p>

Section	Description
	Subd. 5. Report required. Requires grant recipients to annually report on the number of positions hired with the grant money and lists performance measures, at least two of which must be addressed in the annual reporting.
2	Appropriations. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money for the Library Media Specialist grant program.



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