

Subject Duluth and Other School Districts; Special Education Adjustment

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Overview

Under current law, for most charter schools, the charter school bills back 90 percent of its unreimbursed special education costs to the student's resident school district.

H.F. 1207 creates a new mechanism that applies to unreimbursed costs for some school districts and charter schools. The new mechanism applies when:

1. a school district's central office is located in a greater Minnesota city of the first class, or a state academy is located within the school district's boundaries; and
2. at least 80 percent of the charter school's student population is resident to the school district where the charter school is located.

The new adjustment defines the districtwide cap rate which is the combined average calculated districtwide rate for the district and the charter school. This districtwide cap is then used to calculate the unreimbursed special education costs (instead of the charter school's actual special education costs).

H.F. 1207 also adjusts the fiscal year 2016 special education base for the Duluth school district upwards for use in calculating future special education aid payments and makes a onetime payment of \$3,200,000 to the Duluth school district to compensate for the past impact of the lower fiscal year 2016 special education base.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Alternative attendance programs.</p> <p>Creates an alternative attendance special education adjustment for certain charter schools. Applies the alternative adjustment to a charter school located in a school district that's administrative office is located in a city of the first class located in greater Minnesota or is home to a State Academy, and where at least 80 percent of the charter school's enrollment is resident to that school district. Limits the charter school's unreimbursed special education costs to not more than the combined school district charter school districtwide cap rate for each hour of special education services provided by the charter school.</p>

Section	Description
2	Duluth school district; base adjustment. Requires the commissioner of education to increase the fiscal year 2016 base for the Duluth school district by \$1,075,000 (this higher base level plays into future calculations of special education aid for the Duluth school district).
3	Appropriations. Appropriates an unspecified amount for special education aid for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Appropriates \$3,200,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for a payment to the Duluth school district for unreimbursed special education costs for fiscal years 2016 to 2019 due to the district's lower fiscal year 2016 special education base.



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