

Subject School Assistance Related to COVID-19

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Overview

H.F. 4 includes provisions designed to assist students and school systems adversely affected by COVID-19, including:

- calculating general education revenue for FY 21 on the greater of the pupil units for FY 20 or FY 21;
- authorizing funding for extended time programs, including summer school, according to a plan adopted by school boards;
- providing enhanced services for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) outside of the IEP process; and
- appropriating state aid for a variety of onetime programs.

Article 1: K-12 COVID-19 Actions

Section Description – Article 1: K-12 COVID-19 Actions

- 1 Adjusted pupil units.**
Recalculates general education revenue for the 2020-2021 school year (FY 21) for school districts and charter schools using the greater of the school's pupil units for the current year or the pupil units for the 2019-2020 school year (FY 20).
- 2 General education aid appropriation.**
Amends the general education line item appropriation for FY 21 by inserting an unspecified amount for FY 21.
- 3 Onetime extended time flexibility.**
Authorizes school districts to offer extended time programming, including summer school, during the spring and summer of calendar year 2021 according to a plan

Section Description – Article 1: K-12 COVID-19 Actions

adopted by the school board. Includes added hours of instruction under this section for funding as if the hours were offered through the existing extended time program.

Under current law, only hours of instruction provided through a State Approved Alternative Program (SAAP) qualify for extended time aid.

4 Students with disabilities.

Subd. 1. On-site instruction. Requires school districts and charter schools to prioritize on-site instruction to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who, if receiving on-site instruction, are receiving education services in a federal level 3 or federal level 4 setting.

Subd. 2. Home visits. Explicitly authorizes a school district to provide services required by an individualized education program (IEP) to a student at the student's home and qualifies those services for funding in accordance with Minnesota's special education funding laws.

Subd. 3. Truancy. Requires a school district to consider how a student's disability may affect the student's ability to engage in distance instruction when determining whether to refer a student for truancy programs and services or when reporting students for educational neglect.

Subd. 4. Transition program. Requires a school district to allow a student participating in a special education secondary transition program (transition programs are for students ages 18 through 21) who missed employment, in-person job training, or independent life skills training during the 2020-2021 school year to participate in those programs during the 2021-2022 school year, notwithstanding the student's age.

5 Appropriations.

Subd. 1. Department of Education. Appropriates state aid in FY 21 to the Department of Education for the programs listed in this section.

Subd. 2. Full-service community school planning grants. Appropriates \$2,000,000 in FY 21 for grants to expedite the implementation of full-service community school programs during the 2021-2022 school year with a focus on eliminating educational disparities related to COVID-19. Makes the appropriation available until August 30, 2021.

Subd. 3. Trauma-informed incentive grants. Appropriates \$6,000,000 for grants to school sites to provide trauma-informed and systemic staff development to school staff to support students with adverse childhood experiences. Requires trauma-informed support program plans to be negotiated by district and teachers' union, and to include strategies to address traumatic stress related to

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COVID-19. Requires the grants to promote restorative practices and nonexclusionary discipline. Sets the grant amounts at \$40 per pupil served at the qualifying school site. Prioritizes grants to schools working with the Department of Human Rights to eliminate disparities in discipline among the students served at the school. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2022.

Subd. 4. Math corps. Appropriates \$3,000,000 to ServeMinnesota for additional math corps activities designed to remediate students' math deficiencies related to COVID-19. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2022.

Subd. 5. Reading corps. Appropriates \$2,000,000 to ServeMinnesota for additional reading corps activities designed to remediate students' literacy deficiencies related to COVID-19. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2022.

Subd. 6. Expanded extended time programs. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money for expanded extended time programs during FY 21 and the summer of 2021 consistent with section 3. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2022.

Subd. 7. After-school community learning programs. Appropriates \$5,000,000 to Ignite Afterschool for grants to eliminate students' learning losses related to COVID-19. Requires 50 percent of the grant funds to go to expanding existing after-school and summer programs and 50 percent of the grant funds to go to new partners that provide after-school programming. Makes the grants available for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and for summer programs in 2021. Requires one-half of the grants to be awarded to organizations in the seven-county metropolitan area and the other half of the grants to be awarded to community organizations located in greater Minnesota. Sets criteria to prioritize funding. Requires reporting. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2022.

Subd. 8. Summer school grants. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money for summer school programs for students with disabilities. Authorizes the programming for students regardless of the requirements in the students' IEPs. Makes the appropriation available until August 30, 2021.

Article 2: Federal Funds

This article replaces state aids approved in article 1 with federal aid if any available COVID-19 related federal funds become available for the purposes of the programs funded in article 1.

Section Description – Article 2: Federal Funds

1 Federal funds replacement; appropriation.

Requires the state to use federal funds, if available and allowable for such use, to replace the state aid appropriated in article 1.



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