

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 127

**DATE:** February 6, 2003

**Version:** First Engrossment

**Authors:** Carlson and others

**Subject:** Memorializing Congress and the President to fund their declared share of Special Education Revenue

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### Overview

The federal government, when implementing the individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA), declared in the initial legislation its intent to pay for up to 40% of school districts' special education costs. House File 127 memorializes Congress and the President to meet the funding responsibilities that Congress established under that act.

Special education services are provided to Minnesota students under a combination of federal laws, state laws and local district policies. Funding for special education programs comes primarily from state revenue. For fiscal year 2003, Minnesota school districts will spend more than \$1 billion on special education services. State special education revenue is expected to total roughly \$565 million, while federal funding is expected to be about \$128 million. The remaining special education expenditures are funded through the local school districts' other general fund revenue.

Since the passage of IDEA, the federal share of education has been relatively small. Recent years have seen an increase in the federal share of funding, but for years prior to the current school year, the federal share has not exceeded 15% of Minnesota's special education costs.