

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes a pilot project for up to six school districts to demonstrate the results on student achievement when school funding is concentrated on regular school instruction.

Section

1 Pilot project concentrating school spending on classroom activities.

Subd. 1. Program created. Creates a four-year pilot program to demonstrate effective models of school district spending. Requires participating districts to spend at least 65% of their total operating funds on regular classroom instruction.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines "total operating expenditures" and "regular classroom instruction."

Subd. 3. Plan contents. Requires participating school districts to develop a plan. The plan must include a proposed budget showing that at least 65% of the district's operating expenditures will be spent in the regular classroom. The plan must also show how the school district will measure changes in student achievement that result from the change in spending priorities.

Subd. 4. Applications. Requires a school district seeking a grant to submit an application to the commissioner of education in the manner required by the

Section

commissioner.

Subd. 5. Grants. Allows the commissioner to choose up to six participating districts, two from high-wealth districts, two from moderate property wealth districts and two from low property wealth districts.

Subd. 6. Review of student achievement. Requires each grant recipient to submit an annual report to the commissioner of education summarizing the district's changes in student achievement.

Subd. 7. Commissioner waiver. Allows the commissioner to waive any of the Department of Education rules that impose a mandate on participating school districts. Requires the commissioner to seek legislative changes to any statutory mandates that direct money away from the regular classroom.

Subd. 8. State aid. Provides each participating school district with additional state aid for up to four years. Sets the state aid amount at 2% of the district's regular classroom expenditures.

2 Appropriations. Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for purposes of funding section 1.