

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Education Finance Appropriation Canceled: Special Education Paperwork

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### Overview

The 2013 Legislature appropriated \$1.763 million in fiscal year 2014 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for purposes of working with the state's centralized information and technology (IT) department, commonly referred to as MN.IT, to develop mechanisms to reduce school district special education paperwork. [Note: unless authority to the contrary exists, any portion of a K12 finance appropriation not spent in the biennium for which it is appropriated usually cancels at the end of that biennium.]

The commissioner of education initially determined that the special education paperwork reduction activities authorized by the fiscal year 2014 appropriation were not feasible based on a onetime appropriation. The money initially appropriated for the school district special education paperwork reduction project was then transferred to the Odyssey account at MN.IT. In July of 2015, MDE and MN.IT entered into an agreement for MN.IT to begin using these funds for an online special education IEP system.

### Section

- 1 Appropriation canceled.** Cancels the remaining portion of the fiscal year 2014 appropriation (\$1,686,000) that was transferred to MN.IT and returns the unspent balance to the state general fund.

