

File Number: H.F. 2145
Version: As introduced

Date: March 13, 2017

Authors: Neu and others

Subject: Nonpublic pupil aid; uses and amounts

Analyst: Tim Strom, tim.strom@house.mn

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

Minnesota Statutes require school districts to provide nonpublic school pupils with textbooks, individualized instructional materials, and standardized tests, all of which must be secular in nature and cannot be used for religious instruction or worship. In addition, a district must provide the same health services to pupils of nonpublic schools as it provides to public school pupils. Nonpublic secondary pupils must also be offered guidance and counseling services by the public secondary schools.

The state reimburses districts for their costs of providing these services to nonpublic pupils using a formula that first calculates the statewide average school pupil expenditure in each of the three categories. For fiscal year 2017, the reimbursement rates are set at 100 percent of the statewide average expenditures per pupil unit, which are as follows: for textbooks, \$84.92; for health services, \$68.89; and for guidance and counseling, \$239.53. The nonpublic pupil aid formula is linked to any increases in the general education basic formula allowance.

H.F. 2145 expands the definition of textbooks to include annual subscription costs for online books, adds course registration fees for advanced placement courses to the definition of software or other educational technology, and expands reimbursable counseling costs and service to include elementary pupils.

Section

- 1 Textbook; nonpublic pupil aid.** Includes in the definition of “textbook” an online book with an annual subscription cost (current law only grants authority for single year costs of online textbooks and does not include multi-year subscriptions).
- 2 Software or other educational technology.** Includes online course registration fees for advanced placement courses taken online in the definition of “software or other educational technology.”
- 3 Provided services; health services and counseling.** Makes nonpublic elementary students eligible for guidance and counseling services in the same manner as nonpublic secondary students (only nonpublic secondary students are covered under current law).
- 4 Guidance and counseling services; allotment.** Includes school district expenditures for elementary pupil guidance and counseling services in the reimbursement calculation for guidance and counseling services.
- 5 Computation of maximum allotments.** Increases the funding for guidance and counseling services provided to nonpublic pupils by linking the formula to all elementary and secondary school district expenditures for this purpose (not just secondary student expenditures).