

Subject Bureau of Indian Education Tribal Contract Schools; State Aid

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Overview

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operates within the Department of the Interior and is responsible for overseeing Indian education across the United States.

Minnesota has four Tribal Contract/Grant schools operating under the authority of the BIE. Federal funds passed through the BIE provide the basic funding for Minnesota's four tribal contract schools.

Since the 1970s, Minnesota has funded several grant programs to support American Indian students enrolled in public schools including state aid to supplement the federal funds for BIE schools. About 700 students attend Minnesota's four Tribal Contract/Grant Schools.

Students who attend BIE schools must be members of federally recognized tribes or their descendants and reside on or near federal Indian reservations. The curriculum and educational accountability requirements in BIE-operated schools are the same as those of the state where the BIE schools are located and include requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The tribal contract schools must comply with Minnesota's education statutes, and state aid must supplement, not replace, funds provided by the federal government.

Minnesota pays supplemental state aid through an enrollment-based formula to the four tribal contract schools. For the past four years, the maximum funding for the tribal contract schools was set at \$3,230 per pupil. However, under current law, the maximum aid per pupil is set to drop back to its former level of \$1,500 per pupil beginning in fiscal year 2020.

H.F. 1100 proposes to make the higher maximum allowance of \$3,230 per pupil permanent at a cost of roughly \$1.7 million in fiscal year 2020, and \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2021.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Revenue amount; tribal contract aid. Makes permanent the higher maximum amount of per pupil aid for tribal contract schools and links the maximum aid allowance to growth in the general education basic formula allowance for future years.
2	Appropriations. Appropriates an unspecified amount of state aid for the state's tribal contract school aid formula.



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