

Subject Early Special Education Services: Metro Deaf Charter School

Authors Richardson

Analyst Annie Mach

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Summary

Minnesota's charter schools may begin providing services to students once they are enrolled in the school. Under current law, generally a charter school may first enroll a child beginning in kindergarten, unless the school operates an approved prekindergarten program in which case the charter school may begin providing special education services to a student who is enrolled in a prekindergarten program.

The 2015 legislature (prior to the creation of the voluntary prekindergarten program) created an exception for the Metro Deaf Charter School and allowed the school to provide services to prekindergarten pupils (see Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.11, paragraph (h)).

H.F. 1382 appropriates \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the Department of Education for a grant to the Metro Deaf Charter School. The school must use the grant to provide services to young children who have a primary disability of deaf or hard-of-hearing and who are not eligible for the school's prekindergarten pupil exception (i.e., who are younger than prekindergarten age). The annual budget base for this program is \$200,000.