

Subject English Learner Revenue for Schools

Authors Her and others

Analyst Tim Strom

Date February 7, 2022

Overview

School districts and charter schools receive English Learner (EL) revenue to provide instruction to students with limited English skills. Programs may include bilingual programs or English-as-a-second-language (ESL) programs. Bilingual education programs provide curriculum instruction to students in their native language. ESL program students are taught to read, write, listen, and speak in English.

There are two parts to the EL portion of general education basic skills revenue: a basic formula of \$704 per English Learner; and a concentration formula which adds up to \$250 per English Learner. A school district with at least one student eligible for EL services has a statutorily assigned minimum EL pupil count of 20.

Most school districts and charter schools spend considerably more on EL services than the schools receive in EL revenue.

H.F. 2944 increases the basic EL allowance from \$704 to \$1,000 per EL student and proposes a new part of the EL formula that pays for an increasing percentage of the difference between the school's EL spending and its EL revenue. The phase-in pays 25% of the difference in FY 23, 50% of the difference in FY 24, 75% of the difference in FY 25, and 100% of this amount for FY 26 and later.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	School district EL revenue.
----------	------------------------------------

	Moves the EL funding components into one subdivision. Increases the EL basic allowance from \$704 to \$1,000 per qualifying EL student. Creates a new component of EL revenue that funds an increasing percentage of the difference between a school's EL spending and its EL revenue. Sets the percentage at 25% of the difference
--	---

Section	Description
	in FY 23, 50% of the difference in FY 24, 75% of the difference in FY 25, and 100% of this amount for FY 26 and later.
2	Basic skills revenue. Moves the concentration portion of the EL revenue formula (up to \$250 per EL pupil) to the EL revenue section of statute.
3	Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the Department of Education for additional general education aid to pay for the increase in EL revenue proposed under this bill.



Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155