

Subject Nonpublic Pupil Aid; Guidance and Counseling for Elementary Students

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Overview

Minnesota's school finance formulas include nonpublic pupil aid for certain expenses for textbooks, health services, and guidance and counseling.

Minnesota Statutes requires 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 up to the amount of the statewide average expenditure per pupil times the number of nonpublic school pupils served, with an inflation adjustment equal to the percent of increase in the general education revenue program formula allowance from the second preceding school year. For fiscal year 2023, the per pupil reimbursement rates are as follows: for textbooks \$81.31; for pupil health services, \$73.71; and for secondary guidance and counseling, \$298.05.

H.F. 3506 expands the nonpublic aid to include the per pupil costs of elementary counseling and guidance services. The 2021 fiscal note for this bill estimated a state aid cost of about \$1.85 million for fiscal year 2023.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Provided services. [Nonpublic pupil aid]
Authorizes nonpublic pupil aid for elementary school guidance and counseling services. Extends the authority to pupils attending American Indian Tribal contract schools. |
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Section	Description
2	Guidance and counseling services; allotment. The nonpublic pupil aid amount for guidance and counseling is referred to as an allotment. Increases the allotment for guidance and counseling aid to include the average per pupil expenditures in the public school system for elementary school guidance and counseling services.
3	Computation of maximum amounts. [Nonpublic pupil aid] Includes the per pupil expenditures for elementary counseling services in the nonpublic pupil aid calculation.
4	Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of education for additional nonpublic pupil aid payments to school districts.

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