



S.F. No. 1594 – Special education aid adjustment for Duluth Public Schools

Author: Senator Jennifer McEwen

Prepared by: Bjorn Arneson, Legislative Analyst (bjorn.arneson@mnsenate.gov)

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S.F. No. 1594 increases the special education aid payable to Duluth Public Schools beginning in fiscal year 2026. The bill directs the commissioner to increase the district's special education initial aid to reflect changes not included when the 2016 special education aid base was established. Additionally, the bill appropriates money for supplemental special education aid for the district.

Additional background information:

Under current law, a district's initial special education aid is a function of actual special education costs from the prior fiscal year and a census-type formula that allocates aid based on prior-year enrollment and a count of the number of children in various primary disability areas.

Under the special education aid formula modifications enacted in 2013, each district's initial aid calculation has been subject to a set of statutory minimum and maximum limits. For fiscal years 2017 through 2019, a district's maximum aid was limited as a function of its actual fiscal year 2016 aid amount, net of tuition billing from nonresident districts or charter schools for that fiscal year. For fiscal year 2020, the legislature established an alternative maximum limit that reduced the limiting effect of a district's fiscal year 2016 aid amount. Beginning with fiscal year 2021, a district's aid amount has not been subject to any upper growth limit based on fiscal year 2016 aid amounts or otherwise.