

CHAPTER 127A

STATE ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATION

127A.41	Distribution of school aids; appropriation.	127A.50	Aid adjustments due to changes in employer retirement contribution rates.
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127A.41 DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL AIDS; APPROPRIATION.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. **District appeal of aid reduction; inspection of district schools and accounts and records.** Public schools shall at all times be open to the inspection of the commissioner. The accounts and records of any district must be open to inspection by the state auditor, or the commissioner for the purpose of audits conducted under this section. Each district shall keep for a minimum of three years at least the following: (1) identification of the annual session days held, together with a record of the length of each session day, (2) a record of each pupil's daily attendance, with entrance and withdrawal dates, and (3) identification of the to-and-from school transportation category for each pupil as defined in section 123B.92, subdivision 1.

[For text of subs 6 and 7, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 8. **Appropriation transfers.** (a) If a direct appropriation from the general fund to the department for any education aid or grant authorized in this chapter and chapters 122A, 123A, 123B, 124D, 125A, 126C, and 134, excluding appropriations under sections 124D.135, 124D.16, 124D.20, 124D.21, 124D.22, 124D.52, 124D.531, 124D.54, 124D.55, and 124D.56, exceeds the amount required, the commissioner may transfer the excess to any education aid or grant appropriation that is insufficient. However, section 126C.20 applies to a deficiency in the direct appropriation for general education aid. Excess appropriations must be allocated proportionately among aids or grants that have insufficient appropriations. The commissioner of finance shall make the necessary transfers among appropriations according to the determinations of the commissioner. If the amount of the direct appropriation for the aid or grant plus the amount transferred according to this subdivision is insufficient, the commissioner shall prorate the available amount among eligible districts. The state is not obligated for any additional amounts.

(b) Transfers for aids paid under section 127A.45, subdivisions 12, paragraph (a), 12a, paragraph (a), and 13, shall be made during the fiscal year after the fiscal year of the entitlement. Transfers for aids paid under section 127A.45, subdivisions 11, 12, paragraph (b), and 12a, paragraph (b), shall be made during the fiscal year of the appropriation.

Subd. 9. **Appropriation transfers for community education programs.** If a direct appropriation from the general fund to the department of children, families, and learning for an education aid or grant authorized under section 124D.135, 124D.16, 124D.20, 124D.21, 124D.22, 124D.52, 124D.531, 124D.54, 124D.55, or 124D.56 exceeds the amount required, the commissioner of children, families, and learning may transfer the excess to any education aid or grant appropriation that is insufficiently funded under these sections. Excess appropriations shall be allocated proportionately among aids or grants that have insufficient appropriations. The commissioner of finance shall make the necessary transfers among appropriations according to the determinations of the commissioner of children, families, and learning. If the amount of the direct appropriation for the aid or grant plus the amount transferred according to this subdivision is insufficient, the commissioner shall prorate the available amount among eligible districts. The state is not obligated for any additional amounts.

[For text of subd 10; see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 39; art 5 s 4; art 8 s 5

127A.42 REDUCTION OF AID FOR VIOLATION OF LAW.

Subdivision 1. **State aids.** The amount of state aids to which a district is entitled shall be the amount computed according to statutes. The annual state aid certificate made by the commissioner to the commissioner of finance shall show the amount of any reductions made.

Subd. 2. **Violations of law.** The commissioner may reduce or withhold the district's state aid for any school year whenever the board of the district authorizes or permits violations of law within the district by:

- (1) employing a teacher who does not hold a valid teaching license or permit in a public school;
- (2) noncompliance with a mandatory rule of general application promulgated by the commissioner in accordance with statute, unless special circumstances make enforcement inequitable, impose an extraordinary hardship on the district, or the rule is contrary to the district's best interests;
- (3) the district's continued performance of a contract made for the rental of rooms or buildings for school purposes or for the rental of any facility owned or operated by or under the direction of any private organization, if the contract has been disapproved, the time for review of the determination of disapproval has expired, and no proceeding for review is pending;
- (4) any practice which is a violation of sections 1 and 2 of article 13 of the Constitution of the state of Minnesota;
- (5) failure to reasonably provide for a resident pupil's school attendance under Minnesota Statutes;
- (6) noncompliance with state laws prohibiting discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or disability, as defined in section 363.03; or
- (7) using funds contrary to the statutory purpose of the funds.

The reduction or withholding must be made in the amount and upon the procedure provided in this section.

Subd. 3. **Assurance of compliance.** (a) After consultation with the commissioner of human rights, the commissioner of children, families, and learning shall adopt rules in conformance with chapter 14. The rules must direct districts to file with the commissioner of children, families, and learning assurances of compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. The assurances must be provided in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) If it appears that one or more violations of the Minnesota Human Rights Act are occurring in a district, the commissioner of human rights shall notify the commissioner of the violations, and the commissioner of children, families, and learning may then proceed pursuant to subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. **Notice to board.** When it appears that a violation is occurring in a district, the commissioner shall notify the board of that district in writing. The notice must specify the violations, set a reasonable time within which the district must correct the specified violations, describe the correction required, and advise that if the correction is not made within the time allowed, special state aids to the district will be reduced or withheld. The time allowed for correction may be extended by the commissioner if there is reasonable ground therefor.

Subd. 5. **Dispute violations; hearing.** The board to which such notice is given may, by a majority vote of the whole board, decide to dispute that the specified violation exists or that the time allowed is reasonable or the correction specified is correct, or that the commissioner may reduce or withhold aids. The board must give the commissioner written notice of the decision. If the commissioner, after further investi-

gation as the commissioner deems necessary, adheres to the previous notice, the commissioner shall notify the school board of its decision. If the commissioner, after further investigation as the commissioner deems necessary, adheres to the previous notice, the board shall be entitled to a hearing by the commissioner under this subdivision and notwithstanding chapter 14. The commissioner must set a hearing time and place and the board of the district must be given notice by mail. The hearings must be designed to give a full and fair hearing and permit interested parties an opportunity to produce evidence relating to the issues involved. A stenographic record must be made of all testimony given and other proceedings during the hearing. If practicable, rules governing admission of evidence in courts shall apply to the hearing. The final decision of the commissioner must be in writing and the controlling facts upon which the decision is made must be stated in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the reviewing court of the basis and reason for the decision. The decision must be confined to whether any of the specified violations existed at the date of the commissioner's first notice, whether the violations were corrected within the time permitted, whether the violations require withholding or reduction of the state aids under this section, and in what amount.

Subd. 6. Violation; aid reduction or withholding. The commissioner shall not reduce state aids payable to the district if the violation specified is corrected within the time permitted, or if the commissioner on being notified of the district board's decision to dispute decides the violation does not exist, or if the commissioner decides after hearing no violation specified in the commissioner's notice existed at the time of the notice, or that the violations were corrected within the time permitted. Otherwise state aids payable to the district for the year in which the violation occurred may be reduced or withheld as follows: The total amount of state aids to which the district may be entitled shall be reduced in the proportion that the period during which a specified violation continued, computed from the last day of the time permitted for correction, bears to the total number of days school is held in the district during the year in which a violation exists, multiplied by up to 60 percent of the basic revenue, as defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 2, of the district for that year.

Subd. 7. Reduction in aids payable. Reductions in aid under this section and sections 127A.41 and 127A.43 must be from general education aid. If there is not sufficient general education aid remaining to be paid for the school year in which the violation occurred, the reduction shall be from other aids that are payable to the district for that year. If there is not a sufficient amount of state aids remaining payable to the district for the school year in which the violation occurred to permit the full amount of reduction required, that part of the required reduction not taken from that school year's aids will be taken from the state aids payable to the district for the next school year, and the reduction will be made from the various aids payable for the next year.

Subd. 8a. Appeal. A final decision of the commissioner under this section may be appealed in accordance with section 480A.06, subdivision 3.

Subd. 9. Notice to district. Any notice given to the board of a district will be deemed given when a copy thereof is mailed, registered, to the superintendent of the district, if there is a superintendent, and to the clerk of the board of the district. If it is shown that neither the superintendent nor the clerk in fact received such notice in the ordinary course of mail, then the time for correction will be accordingly extended by the commissioner so that a reasonable time will be allowed from actual receipt of notice for correction. If notice is sent by the commissioner with respect to a violation which is continued by the district in a succeeding year, no separate notice for that violation for the succeeding year will be required. Proceedings initiated by such notice shall include any continuing violation notwithstanding that a part thereof occurs in a year different from the year in which it started. The commissioner may require reasonable proof of the time that a violation ceased for the determination of the amount of aids to be reduced or withheld. Costs and disbursements of the review by the court of appeals, exclusive of those incurred in the administrative proceedings, may

be taxed against the losing party and in the event taxed against the state must be paid from the appropriations made to the department for the payment of state aids.

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 5 s 5*

127A.44 [Repealed, *1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 55 subd 1*]

127A.45 PAYMENT OF AIDS AND CREDITS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 8, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 9. **Final adjustment payment.** (a) For all aids and credits paid according to subdivision 13, the final adjustment payment must include the amounts necessary to pay the district's full aid entitlement for the prior year based on actual data. This payment must be used to correct all estimates used for the payment schedule in subdivision 3. The payment must be made as specified in subdivision 3. In the event actual data are not available, the final adjustment payment may be computed based on estimated data. A corrected final adjustment payment must be made when actual data are available.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) and subdivision 3, for a charter school that ceases operation before the end of a school year, a final adjustment payment for aid programs funded with an open appropriation may be made after audit of the prior fiscal year and current fiscal year pupil counts.

[For text of subd 10, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 11. **Payment percentage for reimbursement aids.** One hundred percent of the aid for the previous fiscal year must be paid in the current year for the following aids: special education special pupil aid according to section 125A.75, subdivision 3, aid for litigation costs according to section 125A.75, subdivision 8, aid for court-placed special education expenses according to section 125A.79, subdivision 4, and aid for special education out-of-state tuition according to section 125A.79, subdivision 8.

Subd. 12. **Payment percentage for certain aids.** (a) One hundred percent of the aid for the current fiscal year must be paid for the following aids: reimbursement for enrollment options transportation, according to sections 124D.03, subdivision 8, 124D.09, subdivision 22, and 124D.10; school lunch aid, according to section 124D.111; hearing impaired support services aid, according to section 124D.57; and Indian post-secondary preparation grants according to section 124D.85.

(b) One hundred percent of the aid for the current fiscal year, based on enrollment in the previous year, must be paid for the first grade preparedness program according to section 124D.081.

[For text of subs 12a to 14, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 14a. **State nutrition programs.** Notwithstanding subdivision 3, the state shall pay 100 percent of the aid for the current year according to sections 124D.111, 124D.115, and 124D.118 and 90 percent of the aid for the current year according to section 124D.1156 based on submitted monthly vouchers showing meals and milk served. The remaining ten percent according to section 124D.1156 shall be paid by October 30 of the following fiscal year.

[For text of subs 15 and 16, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 58; art 5 s 6-8*

127A.50 AID ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO CHANGES IN EMPLOYER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RATES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. **Appropriation.** The amounts necessary to pay any positive net adjustments under this section to any school district are appropriated annually from the general fund to the commissioner of children, families, and learning.

[For text of subds 3 to 5, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 40

127A.51 STATEWIDE AVERAGE REVENUE.

By October 1 of each year the commissioner must estimate the statewide average adjusted general revenue per adjusted marginal cost pupil unit and the disparity in adjusted general revenue among pupils and districts by computing the ratio of the 95th percentile to the fifth percentile of adjusted general revenue. The commissioner must provide that information to all districts.

If the disparity in adjusted general revenue as measured by the ratio of the 95th percentile to the fifth percentile increases in any year, the commissioner shall recommend to the legislature options for change in the general education formula that will limit the disparity in adjusted general revenue to no more than the disparity for the previous school year. The commissioner must submit the recommended options to the education committees of the legislature by January 15.

For purposes of this section and section 126C.10, adjusted general revenue means:

(1) for fiscal year 2002, the sum of basic revenue under section 126C.10, subdivision 2; supplemental revenue under section 126C.10, subdivisions 9 and 12; transition revenue under section 126C.10, subdivision 20; referendum revenue under section 126C.17; and equity revenue under section 126C.10, subdivisions 24a and 24b; and

(2) for fiscal year 2003 and later, the sum of basic revenue under section 126C.10, subdivision 2; referendum revenue under section 126C.17; and equity revenue under section 126C.10, subdivisions 24a and 24b.

History: 1Sp2001 c 6 art 1 s 41