

S.F. No. 1210 – Special Education Recovery Services and Support Plans

Author: Senator Zach Duckworth

Prepared by: Jenna Hofer, Fiscal Analyst (651/296-5259)

Date: March 8, 2021

Subdivision 1. Special Education Recovery Services and Support Plans. Requires the commissioner of education, school districts, and charter schools to work with families of students with disabilities to address the impact of COVID-19 on students' progress toward individualized education program (IEP) goals. States that recovery plan services and supports are in addition to special education services a student already receives as part of the student's IEP. Allows recovery plan services and supports to be provided through June 30, 2023.

Subd. 2. District Plan. (a) Requires that a school district or charter school develop a plan for its students with disabilities to address progress or skill loss due to in-person learning disruptions. Outlines district plan requirements, which include:

- 1) opportunities for IEP teams to develop individualized education recovery plans;
- 2) a list of data sources an IEP team may review to assist with developing recovery plans;
- 3) a plan to inform parents of, and allow them to participate in the development of, recovery service and support opportunities for their child;
- 4) options for the parent to select services and supports, including those delivered outside the regular school day or year; and
- 5) a process to contract with private parties selected by the parent from an approved list to provide services and supports.

(b) Requires the district or charter school to report to the commissioner on the services and supports that will be provided, including the cost.

Subd. 3. Individualized Education Recovery Plan. Requires a district or charter school to host a meeting with the parents of a student with a disability and the student's IEP team to develop the recovery plan. Requires the IEP team to consider whether a student is eligible for recovery services and supports, which services and supports are appropriate, and how services and supports will be delivered. Requires the district or charter school to offer a meeting to the parent before September 1, 2021. Allows the parent to request IEP meetings to discuss recovery plans through June 30, 2023.

Subd. 4. Commissioner Duties. (a) Requires the commissioner to provide guidance to districts and charter schools on special education recovery services and supports. Requires the guidance to include services that a supplemental plan may include and guidelines for staff to provide services and supports in a student's home.

(b) Requires the commissioner to establish qualifications for providers of services and supports. Requires the commissioner to develop guidance for districts and charters on identifying qualified providers. Allows the commissioner to issue a list of approved providers.

(c) Requires the commissioner to reimburse districts and charter schools for services and supports provided by private parties based on the reports submitted under subdivision 2.

Subd. 5. Appropriations. Appropriates a blank amount from the general fund to the commissioner of education in fiscal year 2021. Requires the appropriation be used to reimburse districts and charter schools for recovery plan services and supports provided by private parties. Makes the funds available until June 30, 2022.