

Subject Hour of Instruction; Kindergarten Students

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Overview

Minnesota's public schools are funded primarily on the basis of each charter school or school district's pupil count. As a result, the count of pupils served by each district is important. The method for counting pupils is defined in statute. The most common measure of pupils for funding purposes is called "adjusted pupil units." This is an FTE measure of students served throughout the school year weighted by each student's grade level. Students in grades 1 to 6 are weighted and counted as 1.0 pupil units and secondary students are counted as 1.2 pupil units. Prior to 2015, a kindergarten pupil without a disability was funded at slightly more than 0.5 to cover half-day kindergarten programs while a kindergarten student with a disability was weighted by the actual number of hours of service, where 875 hours (5 hours for 175 days during the year) was the minimum number of hours necessary to be weighted as 1.0 pupil units.

In 2015, full-day kindergarten for a student without a disability was funded through a pupil weight of 1.0 with the normal minimum school year set as 5 hours for 170 instructional days (850 hours for the school year), but the minimum hours required for a kindergarten student with a disability to receive full funding remained unchanged at 875 hours (based on 175 days at 5 hours per day).

H.F. 781 simplifies and aligns the minimum hours of instruction for all full-time kindergarten pupils by removing the separate minimum hours requirement for a kindergarten pupil with a disability.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Pupil unit.
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	Removes the separate funding treatment for a kindergarten pupil with a disability so that all kindergarten pupils are counted in the same manner.
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