



[HF 2363](#) – Open Enrollment, English-Language Learners (LSB5484HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New
Requester – Representative Henry Stone

Description

[House File 2363](#) allows for school districts that receive supplementary weighting for students who are English Learners (EL) to use those funds to pay for the cost of transportation of the student, including transportation to nonpublic schools. The Bill also provides requirements for a receiving district that has received a request to allow an EL student to open enroll into the proposed receiving district.

Background

An EL is a student who is in the process of acquiring English proficiency and has a first language other than English or in addition to English. The EL status remains with the student until the student shows English proficiency. School districts receive supplementary weighting to provide services to EL students, which is based on the level of English language proficiency. Currently, intensive students are eligible for a 0.26 weighted funding and intermediate students are eligible for a 0.21 weighted funding.

Open enrollment allows a parent or guardian residing in an Iowa district to enroll their child(ren) into another Iowa school under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code section [282.18](#).

Any school district with excess EL costs may request a modified supplemental amount (MSA) from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to cover EL costs.

The [Transportation School Equity](#) appropriation provides additional funding to school districts for public school transportation costs that exceed the statewide adjusted average cost per student. The individual school district calculations are done each year and are based on the appropriated amount provided for each fiscal year.

Assumptions

- The Bill will not substantially change current open enrollment practices for EL students.
- Requests to the SBRC for MSAs will remain unchanged.
- A limited number of districts transport EL students to another public or nonpublic school.
- The total number of EL students may increase by an unknown amount. But any increase in statewide transportation costs is expected to remain small enough to have no impact on the statewide average transportation cost. As a result, the statewide average transportation cost per pupil will remain at \$430.85.

Fiscal Impact

House File 2363 will have no fiscal impact to the State. Any change to the allocation school districts receive from the Transportation School Equity appropriation is expected to be minimal.

Sources

Department of Education
Iowa Association of School Boards

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
