



SB23-099 Special Education Funding

- *Sponsors: Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D), Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer (R); Rep. Cathay Kipp (D), Lisa Frizell (R)*
 - *The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 15, 2023*
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Overview

Effective from the fiscal year 2023-24, the legislation introduces a funding increase for Tier B special education. The increase amounts to \$40.2 million annually and will be financed from the General Fund, State Education Fund, or a combination of both funds.

School Impact

Under the new legislation, special education funding will be allocated to administrative units, primarily school districts, but this also includes charter schools. The impact of this increase in funding for each school district will vary depending on the number of Tier B special education students they serve.

Districts with a higher number of Tier B special education students will likely receive a larger portion of the increased funding, while districts with fewer Tier B students may receive a proportionally smaller share. The goal is to ensure that districts have the necessary financial resources to support and accommodate the needs of their special education students.

All increases in special education funding, and especially increases for higher-needs students, should decrease the charges districts expect charter schools to pay under any variation on the “insurance model” for special education costs. Those reductions may take time to filter through the system, but if you do not start seeing an impact, it may be worth exploring whether the district has factored its increased funding over the past few years into the calculation of charges to schools.