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## Appropriations Committee

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### HB 2180

**Brief Description:** Increasing the special education enrollment funding cap.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Callan, Bergquist, Reed, Ormsby, Ramel, Stonier, Paul, Alvarado, Farivar, Fosse and Reeves; by request of Office of Financial Management.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increases the enrollment limit for special education excess cost funding from 15 percent to 17.25 percent.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/17/24

**Staff:** James Mackison (786-7104).

**Background:**

The state allocates funding for a program of special education for students with disabilities using an excess cost formula. For eligible students in kindergarten through age 21 (K-21), the formula multiplies a school district's base allocation by an excess cost multiplier up to an enrollment limit of 15 percent of a school district's full-time student enrollment. The enrollment limit was increased to its current level in 2023 from 13.5 percent. K-21 students receiving special education generate funding through both the base allocation and excess cost formulas.

School districts receive a tiered excess cost multiplier based on inclusion in a general education setting for K-21 special education students. A multiplier of 1.12 is provided for special education students that spend at least 80 percent of the school day in a general education setting. For students in a general education setting less than 80 percent of the time, districts receive a 1.06 multiplier. The multipliers were increased to their current levels in the 2023 session from 1.0075 and 0.995.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The formulas for special education also apply to charter schools and tribal schools in state-tribal education compacts.

**Summary of Bill:**

The enrollment limit for K-21 special education funding is increased from 15 percent to 17.25 percent.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 9, 2024.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.