

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 740

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02/12/2015	266	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education
02/19/2015	369	Author added Clausen
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1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; requiring school districts to contract with student
1.3 information system vendors able to seamlessly transfer the records of students
1.4 with disabilities; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 125A.085;
1.5 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 125A.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **[125A.083] STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS; TRANSFERRING**
1.8 **RECORDS.**

1.9 To efficiently and effectively meet federal and state compliance and accountability
1.10 requirements using an online case management reporting system, school districts may
1.11 contract only with a student information system vendor employing a universal filing
1.12 system that is compatible with the online system for compliance reporting under section
1.13 125A.085 beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and later. A district's universal
1.14 filing system under this section must facilitate the seamless transfer of student records
1.15 for a student with disabilities who transfers between school districts, including records
1.16 containing the student's evaluation report, service plan, and other due process forms and
1.17 information, regardless of what filing system any one district uses.

1.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
1.19 and applies to all district contracts with student information system vendors entered into
1.20 or modified after that date.

1.21 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 125A.085, is amended to read:

1.22 **125A.085 ONLINE REPORTING OF REQUIRED DATA.**

2.1 (a) To ensure a strong focus on outcomes for children with disabilities informs
2.2 federal and state compliance and accountability requirements and to increase opportunities
2.3 for special educators and related-services providers to focus on teaching children with
2.4 disabilities, the commissioner must customize a streamlined, user-friendly statewide
2.5 online system, with a single model online form, for effectively and efficiently collecting
2.6 and reporting required special education-related data to individuals with a legitimate
2.7 educational interest and who are authorized by law to access the data.

2.8 (b) The commissioner must consult with qualified experts, including information
2.9 technology specialists, licensed special education teachers and directors of special
2.10 education, related-services providers, third-party vendors, a designee of the commissioner
2.11 of human services, parents of children with disabilities, representatives of advocacy groups
2.12 representing children with disabilities, and representatives of school districts and special
2.13 education cooperatives on integrating, field testing, customizing, and sustaining this simple,
2.14 easily accessible, efficient, and effective online data system for uniform statewide reporting
2.15 of required due process compliance data. Among other outcomes, the system must:

2.16 (1) reduce special education teachers' paperwork burden and thereby increase the
2.17 teachers' opportunities to focus on teaching children;

2.18 (2) to the extent authorized by chapter 13 or other applicable state or federal law
2.19 governing access to and dissemination of educational records, provide for efficiently
2.20 and effectively transmitting the records of all transferring children with disabilities,
2.21 including highly mobile and homeless children with disabilities, among others, and avoid
2.22 fragmented service delivery;

2.23 (3) address language and other barriers and disparities that prevent parents from
2.24 understanding and communicating information about the needs of their children with
2.25 disabilities; and

2.26 (4) help continuously improve the interface among the online systems serving
2.27 children with disabilities in order to maintain and reinforce the children's ability to learn.

2.28 (c) The commissioner must use the federal Office of Special Education Programs
2.29 model forms for the (1) individualized education program, (2) notice of procedural
2.30 safeguards, and (3) prior written notice that are consistent with Part B of IDEA to integrate
2.31 and customize a state-sponsored universal special education online case management
2.32 system, consistent with the requirements of state law and this section for customizing a
2.33 statewide online reporting system. The commissioner must use a request for proposal
2.34 process to contract for the technology and software needed for customizing the online
2.35 system in order for the system to be fully functional, consistent with the requirements of
2.36 this section. This online system must be made available to school districts without charge

3.1 beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. For the 2015-2016 ~~through 2017-2018~~ and later
3.2 school years, school districts may use this online system or may contract with an outside
3.3 vendor for compliance reporting. ~~Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and later,~~
3.4 ~~school districts must use this online system for compliance reporting.~~

3.5 (d) All data on individuals maintained in the statewide reporting system are
3.6 classified as provided in chapter 13 or other applicable state or federal law. An authorized
3.7 individual's ability to enter, update, or access data must be limited through the use of
3.8 role-based access codes corresponding to that individual's official duties or training level,
3.9 and the statutory authorization that grants access for a particular purpose. Any action
3.10 in which data in the system are entered, updated, accessed, or shared or disseminated
3.11 outside of the system must be recorded in an audit trail. The audit trail must identify the
3.12 specific user responsible for the action, the date and time the action occurred, and the
3.13 purpose for the action. Data contained in the audit trail maintain the same classification
3.14 as the underlying data affected by the action, provided the responsible authority makes
3.15 the data available to a student or the student's parent upon request, and the responsible
3.16 authority may access the data to audit the system's user activity and security safeguards.
3.17 Before entering data on a student, the responsible authority must provide the student or the
3.18 student's parent written notice of the data practices rights and responsibilities required
3.19 by this section and a reasonable opportunity to refuse consent to have the student's data
3.20 included in the system. Upon receiving the student or the student's parent written refusal
3.21 to consent, the school district must not enter data on that student into the system and must
3.22 delete any existing data on that student currently in the system.

3.23 (e) Consistent with this section, the commissioner must establish a public Internet
3.24 Web interface to provide information to educators, parents, and the public about the form
3.25 and content of required special education reports, to respond to queries from educators,
3.26 parents, and the public about specific aspects of special education reports and reporting,
3.27 and to use the information garnered from the interface to streamline and revise special
3.28 education reporting on the online system under this section. The public Internet Web
3.29 interface must have a prominently linked page describing the rights and responsibilities
3.30 of students and parents whose data are included in the statewide reporting system, and
3.31 include information on the data practices rights of students and parents provided by this
3.32 section and a form students or parents may use to refuse consent to have a student's data
3.33 included in the system. The public Internet Web interface must not provide access to the
3.34 educational records of any individual child.

3.35 (f) The commissioner annually by February 1 must submit to the legislature a report
3.36 on the status, recent changes, and sustainability of the online system under this section.