



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 881

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: January 17, 2006

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 881 provides that the Legislature must specifically appropriate funds for reimbursements to school districts, cooperatives of school districts, or educational service units for high-needs special education students.

High-needs special education students are defined as students who qualify for special education services and either:

- 1) The allowable excess costs directly related to the provision of special education services and transportation for the student are equal to or exceed the qualifying level; or
- 2) The student is not a ward of the state or any court and the student resides outside of his or her resident school district in a residential setting operated by a service provider licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services or eligible for Medicaid.

The qualifying level would start at \$30,000 for services and transportation provided in school fiscal year 2006-07 and would increase for each school fiscal year thereafter by the school district basic allowable growth rate.

For audited allowable excess costs directly related to the provision of special education services and transportation for high-needs special education students, LB 881 requires the Nebraska Department of Education to fully reimburse each school district, cooperative, or educational service unit in the following school fiscal year.

The bill specifies that each school district, cooperative, or educational service unit that expects a student to be a high-needs special education student must submit the expected allowable excess costs to the Nebraska Department of Education for a pre-audit. Upon completion of the school fiscal year, the district, cooperative, or educational service unit must submit the allowable excess costs to the Nebraska Department of education for a final audit prior to reimbursement.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Elaine Stuhr

