

MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Tom Melcher, Director
Division of School Finance

Date: August 1, 2012

Subject: 2012 Nonpublic Pupil Aid Legislation

Laws of Minnesota for 2012, Chapter 144 expands the list of items eligible for purchase under the textbook / individualized instructional material / cooperative learning material component of the Nonpublic Pupil Aid program under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.41.

Beginning in FY2013, nonpublic pupil aid funds may be used to purchase “software or other educational technology, including “software, programs, applications, hardware, and any other electronic education technology”. All items must be secular, neutral and nonideological material used by, or of benefit to Minnesota public school pupils. Eligible materials must be designed primarily for individual pupil use or use by pupils in a cooperative learning group in a particular class or program.

The intent of the Nonpublic Pupil Aid program as outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.40, is for every school pupil in the state to share equitably in education benefits. The funding and eligibility for participation in the aid program is on a per pupil basis. Eligible products must be purchased in quantities that insure each student or each cooperative learning group has their own copy. Site licenses do not meet this requirement as they do not guarantee that each student or cooperative learning group is treated equitably.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.42, Subdivision 2, requires that the title to textbooks, individualized instructional/cooperative learning materials, and standardized testing materials must remain in the servicing district. Possession or custody may be granted or charged to administrators of the nonpublic school attended by the nonpublic school pupil or pupils to whom the eligible items are loaned.

Due to the variety of licensing and ownership restrictions attached to electronic educational technology, servicing districts will be required to register as the owner/user of the products loaned to participating nonpublic pupils.

Questions concerning this legislation should be directed to Greg Sogaard, Education Finance Specialist, School Finance Division, at (651) 582-8858, or greg.sogaard@state.mn.us.