



SB 1060 special education; group B weights (S. Allen)

- This bill increases group B support level weights for several special education funding categories and appropriates \$5M in FY21 to the Extraordinary Needs Fund.
 - The estimated increase in the support level weights represents about \$55M per year in new funding.
- Increases, from 5.833 to 6.024, the MD-SC, A-SC and SID-SC support level weights to bring funding levels for self-contained placements equal to resource placements.
- Increases, from 0.003 to 0.114, the DD, ED, MIID, SLD, SLI, and OHI support level weights.
- **Extraordinary Needs Fund**
 - Appropriates \$5M in FY21 to the Extraordinary Needs Fund (Fund) and changes the funds to being continuously appropriated, rather than subject to annual legislative appropriation.
 - Transfers administration and oversight of the Fund from the State Board of Education (SBE) to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE)
 - Allows ADE to retain up to two percent of money in the Fund for administrative costs
 - Establishes that a school district or charter school is eligible to receive money from the Fund if a student receiving special education services has incurred costs in the current year of at least three times the statewide per pupil funding average.
 - Requires ADE to evaluate claim requests to the Fund on a quarterly basis.
 - Establishes that if the eligible claims exceed money in the Fund, ADE shall prioritize claims with the greatest difference between the claim amount and the total funding the school district or charter school has received for that student.
 - Requires ADE to annually adopt and post policies and procedures for the Fund, including the average statewide per pupil funding amount for that fiscal year which will be used to calculate priority of claims.
 - Allows a school district or charter school to submit a claim for the full fiscal year or expenses resulting from an independent educational evaluation.
 - Allows a school district or charter school to revise a claim, to receive funding at the end of the quarter, for an additional expense for a student who received funding in the same fiscal year.
 - Establishes annual reporting requirements for ADE on the use and impact of the Fund.