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Overview

For the last few years, Minnesota has provided state aid to promise neighborhoods and achievement zones. In 2017, the funding was consolidated into a single two-tiered program and codified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.99, as the Education Partnerships Coalition Fund. This program supports a coalition of coordinated, education partnerships providing a network of evidence-based support services. The programs are designed to close opportunity gaps by improving educational and developmental outcomes of children and their families.

The 2017 legislature funded the Northside Achievement Zone in Minneapolis and the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood at \$1.3 million per year, and provided \$160,000 each year for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative, the Jones Family Foundation for the Every Hand Joined program in Red Wing, and the United Way of Central Minnesota for the Partners for Student Success program.

HF 3354 adds to the list of positive characteristics of qualifying partnerships to include: collecting and utilizing data to improve student outcomes, sharing disaggregated performance data, employing continuous improvement processes, and demonstrating an ability to leverage nonstate funds. HF 3354 also authorizes priority for future tier 2 grants to past grant recipients.

Section

- 1 Administration; design.** Adds additional criteria for the commissioner to use when evaluating Educational Partnership grant applications.
- 2 Tier 2 implementing grants.** Requires that the tier 2 competitive grant awards in future biennia give priority to past grant recipients.