

HF 844: Governor's PreK-12 Budget Bill

Article 1: General Education

Section 1: Establishes that districts offering prekindergarten must include 850 hours of instruction for the school year and at least 200 hours for the summer, effective in FY 2017 and later.

Section 2: Adjusts the per pupil allowance amounts for alternative teacher compensation (Q-comp) in future years due to the impact of the universal prekindergarten program. \$260/pupil through FY 17, then \$251 in FY 18, and \$249 in FY 19 and thereafter.

Section 3: (1) The 4-yr old universal prekindergarten program (voluntary for districts to offer) is established. (2a) To meet state requirements programs must include 14 components covering high quality instruction and alignment of curriculum, assessments, and instruction to state standards and guidelines; measurement of children's skills; child-staff ratios; individualized learning plans; licensed teachers; comparable teacher salaries; professional development for school-based community-based providers; community collaboration and parent engagement; coordination with programs and services to help all student populations and inclusion of children with disabilities; and a plan for mixed delivery that may include partnerships with outside providers also complying with state requirements. (2b) Implementation strategy must be included in the district's World's Best Workforce plan. (2c) Districts receiving prekindergarten funds must have 25% of teachers licensed or with special permission by FY 17, 50% by FY 18, 75% by FY 19, and 100% by FY 2020 and thereafter. (3) To participate, the child must not be in kindergarten and be 4 years old on Sept. 1 of that school year, must have completed an early childhood screening within 45 days of enrollment, and must show documentation of required immunizations.

Section 4: Clarifies that "English learner" also includes prekindergarten pupils, effective FY 17. Increases the years a pupil can generate English learner revenue from six years to seven years, effective FY 16.

Section 5: Pupil unit statute is updated to reflect that students in state-compliant prekindergarten programs generate .5 pupil units.

Section 6: The formula allowance is increased by \$58 in FY 16 from \$5,831 to \$5,889 and by \$59 in FY 17 to \$5,948.

Section 7: Increases state share of operating capital revenue thus lowering the operating capital levy. This offsets the increase in other levies that will increase due to the increased number of pupils under the governor's prekindergarten proposal.

Section 8: Appropriations changes. Over the biennium, general education funding increases including \$174 million for formula increase, \$109 million for prekindergarten, and just under \$8

million for EL services going to 7 years. Appropriations also include increases to nonpublic aid and nonpublic pupil transportation which are linked the formula increase.

Article 2: Education Excellence

Section 1: Establishes priority placement of Reading Corps members in prekindergarten through first grade programs in focus or priority schools or federal school improvement grant recipients.

Section 2: Appropriation changes. \$4.522 million increase to the base to the Success for the Future program over the biennium. \$10 million increase to the Reading Corps base over the biennium. Increase to charter school building lease aid and achievement and integration aid due to linkage with the prekindergarten proposal.

Article 3: Special Education

Section 1: Technical fix of an unintended change from 2014 session. Assures that items long-excluded from calculating special education excess cost aid are not double counted.

Section 2: Appropriation changes. Minor savings in special education funds. \$4.6 million increase to base for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) over the biennium.

Article 4: Facilities and Technology

Section 1: Appropriation changes. Minor increase to deferred maintenance equalization, which is linked to the prekindergarten proposal.

Article 5: Nutrition and Accounting

Section 1: Fully pays for school breakfast for those in prekindergarten through grade 3. Reimbursement can only happen for claims submitted no later than 60 days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim.

Section 2, 3: Removes statutory reference to school readiness aid.

Section 4: Appropriation changes. Increase to school lunch and food storage linked to prekindergarten. \$28.1 million increase to base to school breakfast to fully funding for students in prekindergarten through grade 3.

Article 6: Libraries

No changes.

Article 7: Early Childhood Education

Section 1: Districts no longer submit copies of contracts with outside early childhood provides to commissioner.

Section 2: Changes the kindergarten readiness assessment so that MDE provides districts with a menu of measurement instruments that are aligned to the state early childhood indicators of

progress and kindergarten standards based on the Kindergarten Readiness Study and meeting World's Best Workforce goal of measuring school readiness.

Section 3: Expands eligibility for early learning scholarships to ages 0-5 from 3 and 4 years old. Recipients must not be enrolled in a state funded prekindergarten program. Effective FY 17.

Section 4: (1)(2) Establishes the Help Me Grow program under MDE, in collaboration with MDH and DHS, that is affiliated with national program. It is a resource and referral system for children (prenatal-8) and their families. (3a) The program facilitates collaboration by: providing child health care outreach, tools for identification of developmental and behavioral problems, and access to community-based services. (3b) The program shall provide community outreach and a resource directory that includes: medical care providers, early childhood education and care programs, developmental disabilities assessment and interventions, mental health services, family and social support programs, public health services, and other early childhood information. (3c) The program acts as a centralized resource of information for parents and professionals. (3d) The program shall collect data to understand the ongoing system and identify gaps in and barriers to service. (4) MDE shall annually review outcomes, alignment with early childhood goals, and impacts on young children.

Section 5: Appropriate changes. Eliminates the funding for the school readiness program in FY 17, which shifts to the governor's prekindergarten program proposal. An increase to early childhood and family education linked the formula allowance increase. \$19.44 million beginning in FY 17 to eliminate the Head Start waiting list. \$2 million each to Northside Achievement Zone and Saint Paul Neighborhood over the biennium. \$2 million to the Help Me Grow program over the biennium.

Article 8: Prevention

No changes.

Article 9: Self-Sufficiency and Lifelong Learning

No changes.

Article 10: State Agencies

Section 1: Appropriations to MDE. \$818,000 operating adjustment to MDE. \$6 million increase to Regional Centers of Excellence over the biennium. \$200,000 increase to the Board of Teaching over the biennium. \$9,000 operating adjustment to the Board of School Administrators.

Section 2: Appropriations to Minnesota State Academies. \$546,000 operating adjustment.

Section 3: Appropriations to Perpich Center for Arts Education. \$299,000 operating adjustment. \$1 million for facility and instructional improvements over the biennium.