

Subject Making Permanent Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Seats

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Overview

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program began in fiscal year 2017 as one way to provide prekindergarten education services to students (primarily four-year-olds) who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The VPK program divides the state into four regions and awards seats and funding for the program to school district and charter school sites based on each site's percentage of free and reduced-price lunch eligible kindergarten students. The initial funding for the program was sufficient to fund seats for 3,160 four-year-old students on an ongoing basis.

In the following year, another 4,000 seats were added to the VPK program and a second program style, called School Readiness Plus (SRP) was created, although most of these newly qualified sites continue to use the VPK model. These 4,000 seats were initially added for two years only. The legislature renewed these seats in 2019 for two years, and again during the 2021 session, the seats were extended for another two years but are due to expire after fiscal year 2023.

H.F. 2655 makes these additional 4,000 seats permanent for fiscal years 2024 and later.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Participation limits. Permanently sets the combined count of VPK and SRP participants at 7,160 per year.
2	Pupil unit. Removes the sunset on the formula for calculating pupils under the expanded VPK/SRP program.

Section	Description
3	Declining enrollment revenue. Makes conforming changes related to the permanent extension of VPK/SRP seats.



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