



# One Minnesota Budget Implementation | MDE February 29, 2024

# One Minnesota Budget



- **The Walz-Flanagan Administration is working together across agencies to make Minnesota the best state for kids and families.**
- That's why Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's 2023 One Minnesota Budget invested in feeding kids, supporting educators, supporting student mental health, student supports, student literacy, and good governance.



## MDE Early Learning Implementation

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# Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

- Funding to hire two licensed parent educators to support and provide technical assistance to ECFE programs across the state.
- Implementation update:
  - The positions will provide increased support and technical assistance to districts for ECFE programming, including program operations, outreach and engagement efforts and professional development needs.
  - Interviews are underway for those two positions.

# Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening

- Effective July 1, 2023: Districts will receive a 30% increase in state aid for each child screened between the ages of three and the first 30 calendar days of kindergarten.
- Effective July 1, 2023, Early Childhood Screening programs began offering virtual developmental screening upon request to parents/guardians with immunocompromised health or other health concerns.
- Implementation update:
  - Guidance was updated - View the [Early Childhood Screening guidance document](#) for more information.
  - Expanded Early Childhood Screening training was provided to districts (and charters who elect to provide screening programs) for virtual screening for families who request it due to health concerns.

# Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

- **FY24:** 7,160 permanent seats (funding for 4,000 expiring temporary seats)
- **FY25:** 10,160 permanent seats (\$50M set aside for an additional 3,000 seats)
- **FY26–27:** 12,360 permanent seats (an additional 2,200 seats)
- All seats remain funded at .60 ADM
- Implementation update:
  - Districts and charter schools updated applications in spring 2023, and MDE officially allocated the 4,000 seats for the 2023-24 school year.
  - Future application process will provide opportunity for districts and charters to apply for additional or new seats

# Grow Your Own – Early Childhood and Family Educators

- K-12 Grow Your Own grant funding was expanded to include opportunities for Early Childhood Educators
  - \$2.5M/year in FY24 and FY25
  - \$500,000/year ongoing
- Programs can use these grants to develop an early childhood education workforce that more closely reflects the state's increasingly diverse student population and ensures all students have equitable access to high-quality early educators.
- Implementation update:
  - RFP has closed and grant agreements will be signed by early spring.

# Early Childhood Curriculum Grants

- \$500,000 to Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) to embed the Knowledge Competency Framework (KCF) in their courses.
- Implementation update:
  - Request for Proposal (RFP) for the grant opportunity was released and will close at the end of March, with grant agreements anticipated by early summer.

# Early Learning Scholarships

- Early Learning Scholarship funding increased by \$126,028,000 making the total appropriation \$196,737,000 effective July 1, 2023.
- Interim increase in the Scholarship Cap went into effect July 1, 2023
  - \$12,000 for family child care and \$15,000 for center- and school-based
- Effective January 1, 2024: Birth to age 4 expansion
- Effective July 1, 2024: Additional priority groups added; 4-star program scholarships move to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rate
- Implementation update:
  - IT systems changes and guidance are underway to support the policy changes.
  - In the first 6 months, 2,120 new children received a scholarship and of those, 1,094 were from a priority population.

# Online Early Learning Scholarship Application

- **Easier for families.** Using the IT administrative funds that were appropriated for the Early Learning Scholarship program, MDE contracted with a professional services company to design and build a digital application hub for families and administrator processing system for early learning scholarships.
- **Forward looking.** This project is being built in alignment with the DHS licensing hub to support future alignment and integration for the early care and education system.
- **Pilot phase.** A pilot with two tribal and two local administrators went live in January of 2024.
- **Next steps.** MDE will be kicking off the digital transformation build phase for Early Learning Scholarships Pathway I statewide rollout and are targeting mid-summer for statewide launch.

# Great Start Scholarship Program

- Implementation for the Great Start Scholarship Program was set for January 2024
- Implementation update:
  - MDE and DHS have been working in partnership to get ready to implement the requirements.
  - Positions are posted to support the work.

# Kindergarten Fall Assessment

- Funding was provided to implement a Kindergarten Fall Assessment. MDE must report the percentage of kindergartners who met or exceeded end-of-year prekindergarten standards.
- Implementation update:
  - MDE will provide districts and charter schools with the Kindergarten Fall Assessment, including access to training.
  - Year 1 (SY 2023-24) is focused on community and partner input
  - Year 2 (SY 2024-25) will focus on piloting/testing and continued community and partner input
  - Year 3 (SY 2025-26) will focus on implementation, reporting, and continued community and partner feedback
  - A contract for the engagement was recently signed, and district and family engagement will be underway soon.

Thank you