

Subject Education policy

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## Overview

This is the Governor's education policy bill. It contains provisions relating to student safety drills, children experiencing homelessness, migratory children, the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO), charter schools, school district procurement, and other education policy provisions.

## Article 1: General Education

This article establishes requirements in state law for the education of children experiencing homelessness and migratory children; modifies student safety drill requirements; requires supportive interventions when there is bullying behavior; and makes other changes.

### Section Description - Article 1: General Education

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- 1 Kindergarten. [Definitions]**

Modifies definition of "kindergarten" to define it as a grade rather than a program and requires it to provide a developmentally appropriate learning experience.
- 2 Education of children experiencing homelessness.**

Establishes requirements in state law for the identification and enrollment of children experiencing homelessness. Requires districts to enroll a child experiencing homelessness immediately even if the child cannot produce records otherwise required for enrollment. Requires districts and charter schools to provide a child experiencing homelessness with educational services and supports, including transportation to and from the school of origin when in the child's best interests. Allows a child experiencing homelessness to remain in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness or through the end of an academic year when the child obtains permanent housing.
- 3 Education of migratory children.**

Defines "migratory child." Requires a district or charter school to identify a migratory child and immediately enroll the child even if the child cannot produce records normally required for enrollment. Requires districts and charter schools to provide

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- migratory children with educational services to meet their unique needs, and expedite the transfer of educational and health records for migratory children.
- 4     **Standards development. [Academic standards]**  
Strikes requirement that academic standards be grade-level appropriate.
- 5     **Definitions. [Comprehensive achievement and civic readiness]**  
Comprehensive achievement and civic readiness mean striving for specified goals, including meeting school readiness goals; this section substitutes that goal for creating developmentally appropriate early learning experiences.
- 6     **Bullying interventions and supports.**  
Requires districts and charter schools to provide supportive interventions to students who experience bullying behavior and students who engage in bullying behavior. For the former, supportive interventions must include access to counseling, mental health services, and other resources designed to restore safety and well-being. Requires districts to remove references to “remedial responses” in bullying policies and replace the term with language reflecting comprehensive, supportive interventions. [Section 121A.031 defines “remedial responses” and requires schools to have policies that emphasize remedial responses.] Requires policies to be adopted before the start of the 2027-2028 school year.
- 7     **Definitions. [Student safety drills at schools]**  
Defines “fire drill,” “lockdown drill,” and “shelter-in-place drill.”
- 8     **School safety drills. [Student safety drills at schools]**  
Requires districts and schools to adopt and implement statewide guidance to support school districts, charter schools, and nonpublic schools related to fire drills, shelter-in-place drills, lockdown drills, and active shooter drills.
- 9     **Appeal.**  
Requires a district to provide the commissioner and parent with a written transcript of a student’s expulsion hearing when a party appeals an exclusion or expulsion decision.
- 10    **Federal child and adult care food program and federal summer food service program; criteria and notice; board of directors; salaries.**  
Strikes requirement that a nonprofit multisite sponsoring organization comply with the Open Meeting Law.

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- 11      **Second lunch. [School meals]**  
Limits provision allowing a student to purchase a second lunch to only the entrée.
- 12      **Second breakfast. [School meals]**  
Limits provision allowing a student to purchase a second breakfast to only the entrée.
- 13      **Summer food service program applications.**  
Requires nonprofit organizations applying as new sponsors of the summer food service program to apply to the commissioner by May 1.

## **Article 2: Education Excellence**

This article modifies requirements for language seals, review of literacy materials under the Read Act, and participation in courses offered by postsecondary institutions under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO), and makes other changes.

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- 1      **State bilingual and multilingual seals.**  
Requires the department to establish alternate options to assess a student's level of language proficiency when assessments aligned with the ACTFL are not available for all four modalities. Lists examples of alternate assessment options.
- 2      **Identification; report. [Read Act goal and interventions]**  
Allows a parent to opt a student in kindergarten or grades 1, 2, or 3, out of a literacy screener if the parent and teacher decide that continuing to screen would not be beneficial to the student. [This option is already available for students in grades 4 and above, see paragraph (c).]
- 3      **Parent notification and involvement. [Read Act goal and interventions]**  
Requires a district to administer an approved reading screener to students in grades 4 through 12 who are not reading at grade level at least once per year until the student reaches grade-level proficiency. [Screening requirements for students in grades 4 and above are in paragraph (c) of preceding section.]
- 4      **Ongoing review of literacy materials. [Read Act implementation partnership]**  
Requires the department to establish an ongoing review process for curriculum and intervention materials to identify materials that are evidence-based, focused on structured literacy, culturally and linguistically responsive, and reflective of diverse populations. Allows the department to modify the current rubric to reflect the needs

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- of grade levels and special populations. Allows the department to partner with an organization that is not an institution of higher education for the review. Requires the department to post the findings of the review on the department website.
- 5     **Authorization; notification. [PSEO]**  
Limits authority to deny a pupil seeking to enroll in a PSEO course to only the admissions standards in the PSEO statute and the approved admissions standards submitted by the institution. Strikes requirement that the postsecondary institution notify the pupil’s school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws from the course or stops attending the course.
- 6     **Dissemination of information; notification of intent to enroll. [PSEO]**  
Clarifies deadline for pupil’s notification of intent to enroll in a PSEO course.
- 7     **Credits; grade point average weighting policy. [PSEO]**  
Modifies requirements for pupil to obtain secondary credit that counts toward graduation requirements for completing a course from a postsecondary institution.
- 8     **Repealer.**  
Repeals section 120B.124, subdivision 6 (comprehensive review of literacy materials under the Read Act, starting in 2033).

### **Article 3: Charter Schools**

This article modifies requirements for contracts between charter schools and management organizations, authorizer corrective action plans, and authorizer reports; strikes language in some sections and recodifies it in other sections; and makes other changes.

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- 1     **Certain federal, state, and local requirements. [Applicable law]**  
Requires a charter school to comply with limits on screen time for students in preschool programs and kindergarten.
- 2     **Corrective action. [Authorizers]**  
Modifies requirements for authorizer corrective action plan. Extends maximum duration to 145 business days from 130 business days, and makes other changes.

**Section Description - Article 3: Charter Schools**

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- 3      **Reports. [Authorizers]**  
Modifies requirement that authorizer report financial information to the commissioner; recodifies language stricken in section 12 to consolidate the financial information into one report.
- 4      **Initial board of directors. [Board of directors]**  
Requires a charter school's initial board of directors to include at least one licensed teacher, one prospective parent of a student who is not an employee of the charter school, and one interested community member. Requires initial board members to live in Minnesota.
- 5      **Ongoing board of directors. [Board of directors]**  
Recodifies board member compensation provision stricken in section 6.
- 6      **Membership criteria. [Board of directors]**  
Strikes provisions on structure of the board, conflict of interest, and board member compensation. See new language in sections 5, 7, and 8.
- 7      **Conflict of interest. [Board of directors]**  
Recodifies conflict of interest provisions stricken in section 6 above.
- 8      **Board structure. [Board of directors]**  
Recodifies board structure provisions stricken in section 6 above.
- 9      **Meetings and information. [Board of directors]**  
Lists items that must be included in meeting minutes.
- 10     **Charter school and school district collaboration.**  
Strikes authorizers from provision on agreement between districts and charter schools. Makes technical changes.
- 11     **Charter school information. [Dissemination of information]**  
Sets deadline for authorizer to publish on its website charter contracts, school performance reviews, and other items. Requires materials charter school distributes upon request of authorizer to be in languages parents of enrolled students understand, consistent with school's language access plan. (This language is currently in provision that is repealed under section 14.)

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- 12 **Financial information. [Dissemination of information]**  
Strikes requirement that authorizer publish certain financial information on its website. Section 3 requires this information to be published on the authorizer website and submitted to the commissioner by September 30 each year.
- 13 **CMO and EMO public accounting and reporting.**  
Adds provisions to list of terms that a charter school management agreement with a CMO or EMO must contain. (A CMO is a charter management organization and an EMO is an educational management organization; a CMO is a nonprofit entity and an EMO is a for-profit entity.)
- 14 **Repealer.**  
Repeals section 124E.16, subdivision 4 (authorizer performance evaluation report; this requirement is recodified in section 11).

## Article 4: State Agencies

This article establishes procurement requirements for school districts.

**Section Description - Article 4: State Agencies**

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- 1 **Purchases. [Accounting, budgeting, and reporting requirement]**  
Requires purchases using state money to be made consistent with the procurement policy adopted under section 2.
- 2 **Required procurement policy components; conflict of interest. [Accounting, budgeting, and reporting requirement]**  
Establishes requirements for a local educational agency procurement policy, including conflict of interest provisions, and a competitive procurement process for purchases over \$25,000.
- 3 **Competitive procurement. [Accounting, budgeting, and reporting requirement]**  
Defines “competitive procurement,” “procurement by sealed bids,” and “procurement by proposals,” and establishes requirements for competitive procurement and procurement by proposals.



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