

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to education; making changes to kindergarten through grade 12 education;
1.3 modifying provisions for general education, education excellence, charter schools,
1.4 education innovation, special education, school nutrition, and state agencies;
1.5 amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 10A.071, subdivision 1; 13.32,
1.6 subdivision 5; 13.82, subdivision 1; 120A.22, subdivisions 12, 13; 120A.24,
1.7 subdivision 4; 120B.021, subdivision 3; 120B.215, subdivision 1; 120B.22,
1.8 subdivision 1; 120B.35, subdivision 3; 121A.031, subdivisions 4, 6; 121A.22,
1.9 subdivision 2; 121A.2205; 121A.2207; 121A.224; 122A.092, subdivisions 2, 5;
1.10 122A.441; 122A.70, subdivision 6; 123B.09, by adding a subdivision; 123B.32,
1.11 subdivisions 1, 2; 123B.52, by adding a subdivision; 124D.085; 124D.09,
1.12 subdivisions 5, 5a, 9; 124D.093, subdivisions 3, 4; 124D.094, subdivision 1;
1.13 124D.119, subdivision 5; 124D.162, subdivision 4; 124D.42, subdivision 9;
1.14 124D.52, subdivision 2; 124E.02; 124E.03, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision;
1.15 124E.05, subdivision 2; 124E.06, subdivision 7, by adding a subdivision; 124E.07,
1.16 subdivisions 2, 3, 5, 6; 124E.10, subdivision 4; 124E.13, subdivision 3; 124E.16,
1.17 subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 124E.17; 124E.26, subdivision 4, by adding
1.18 a subdivision; 127A.21, subdivisions 1, 1a, 4, 5, as amended, 6, by adding
1.19 subdivisions; 127A.49, subdivision 3; 136A.1276, subdivision 4; 268.19,
1.20 subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 13;
1.21 120A; 120B; 125A; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.935,
1.22 subdivision 2.

1.23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.24 **ARTICLE 1**

1.25 **GENERAL EDUCATION**

1.26 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120A.22, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

1.27 Subd. 12. **Legitimate exemptions.** (a) A parent, guardian, or other person having control
1.28 of a child may apply to a school district to have the child excused from attendance for the
1.29 whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may
1.30 be made to ~~any member of the board,~~ a truant officer, a or the school official designated by

~~the principal, or the superintendent.~~ The school district may state in its school attendance policy that it may ask the student's parent or legal guardian to verify in writing the reason for the child's absence from school. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the child cannot attend school is a valid excuse. The board of the district in which the child resides may approve the application upon the following being demonstrated to the satisfaction of that board:

(1) that the child's physical or mental health is such as to prevent attendance at school or application to study for the period required, which includes:

(i) child illness, medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments, including appointments conducted through telehealth;

(ii) family emergencies;

(iii) the death or serious illness or funeral of an immediate family member;

(iv) active duty in any military branch of the United States;

(v) the child has a condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis; or

(vi) other exemptions included in the district's school attendance policy;

(2) that the child has already completed state and district standards required for graduation from high school; or

(3) that it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child that the child attend, for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, instruction conducted by a Tribal spiritual or cultural advisor, or a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by a church, or association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This instruction must be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and it must not, in whole or in part, be conducted and maintained at public expense. A child may be absent from school on days that the child attends upon instruction according to this clause.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision 6, paragraph (a), a parent may withdraw a child from an all-day, every day kindergarten program and put their child in a half-day program, if offered, or an alternate-day program without being truant. A school board must excuse a kindergarten child from a part of a school day at the request of the child's parent.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120A.22, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. ~~Issuing and Reporting excuses attendance.~~ (a) A district must count a student as in attendance on each day the student receives supervision, instruction, or services from school staff.

(b) The clerk or any authorized officer of the board principal must issue and keep a record of such excuses, under such rules as the board may from time to time establish.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120A.24, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Reports to the state or county.** (a) A superintendent must make an annual report to the commissioner of education by December 1 of the total number of nonpublic children reported as residing in the district. The report must include the following information:

(1) the number of children residing in the district attending nonpublic schools or receiving instruction from persons or institutions other than a public school;

(2) the number of children in clause (1) who are in compliance with section 120A.22 and this section; and

(3) the number of children in clause (1) who the superintendent has determined are not in compliance with section 120A.22 and this section.

(b) No later than 15 school days after the beginning of each academic term, a school principal must report to the superintendent a list of names and last known addresses of all students who were enrolled in the school for the previous term, are not enrolled in the school for the current term, and were otherwise eligible for enrollment, unless the school has been notified that the student has enrolled in another school. The superintendent must immediately make the list received from the principal available to an authorized representative of a county agency whose statutory purpose is to enroll students in school.

Sec. 4. **[120A.37] ATTENDANCE PROVISIONS CODED ELSEWHERE.**

Subdivision 1. Scope. (a) The sections referred to in subdivisions 2 to 12 are codified outside this section. Those sections include many but not all the sections governing student attendance.

(b) The inclusion or exclusion of a provision related to attendance in this section is not intended to have any substantive legal effect. The cross-references used in this section are

intended solely to indicate the contents of the cross-referenced section and are not part of the cross-referenced statute. The cross-references are not substantive and may not be used to construe or limit the meaning of any statutory language. Users of this section must consult the language of each cross-referenced law to fully understand the scope and effect of the statute.

Subd. 2. **Age of instruction.** (a) Compulsory instruction requirements based on age are governed by section 120A.22, subdivision 5.

(b) Limitation on admission to a public school based on age is governed by section 120A.20.

Subd. 3. **District of residence.** (a) Admission to a public school operated by a district is free to a child who resides within the district in accordance with section 120A.20.

(b) A student may attend a school operated by a district in which the student does not reside in accordance with section 124D.03. A nonresident district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student if the student is a habitual truant or has been absent without lawful excuse in accordance with section 124D.03, subdivision 12.

Subd. 4. **Nonpublic school student reporting.** The person or nonpublic school in charge of providing instruction to a child must submit a report to the superintendent of the district in which the child resides, and maintain documentation in accordance with section 120A.24.

Subd. 5. **Transportation.** (a) A school board must provide transportation for enrolled students residing within the district in accordance with section 123B.88. A district may provide bus transportation between buildings along school routes for students attending programs at an area learning center in accordance with section 123B.88, subdivision 13.

(b) A school district may revoke a student's bus riding privileges in accordance with sections 121A.59 and 123B.91.

(c) A school district transporting students must do so using a school bus, including a multifunction school activity bus or a type III vehicle, in accordance with chapters 169 and 171. A district may use a vehicle that otherwise qualifies as a type III vehicle where the operator does not meet the requirements of section 171.321 to transport students in a nonscheduled situation in accordance with section 169.454, subdivision 13.

Subd. 6. **Students with disabilities.** (a) A school board must provide transportation for a student with a disability in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, section 123B.88, and chapter 125A.

5.1 (b) A district must provide a student with disabilities a free appropriate public education
5.2 in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and special instruction
5.3 and services under chapter 125A.

5.4 Subd. 7. **Funding.** A school district may use its unrestricted general fund money or its
5.5 reserved basic skills revenue for programs to reduce truancy in accordance with section
5.6 126C.15.

5.7 Subd. 8. **Absences.** (a) A parent or guardian may apply to a district to have a child
5.8 excused from attendance, and the district may approve the application in accordance with
5.9 section 120A.22, subdivision 12. An excused absence may include absence so that the child
5.10 may attend, for up to three hours a week, instruction by a Tribal spiritual or cultural adviser,
5.11 or a school for religious instruction. Section 120A.22, subdivision 12, identifies the persons
5.12 to whom a parent may apply for an excused absence.

5.13 (b) A district must make reasonable efforts to accommodate a student who wishes to be
5.14 excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance or American Indian cultural
5.15 practice, observance, or ceremony, in accordance with section 120A.35.

5.16 Subd. 9. **Removal from attendance roll.** A student who has been absent from school
5.17 for 15 consecutive school days during the regular school year is dropped from the roll and
5.18 classified as withdrawn in accordance with section 126C.05.

5.19 Subd. 10. **Truancy.** (a) Truancy programs are governed by chapter 260A.

5.20 (b) A student who is absent from school without valid excuse within a single school
5.21 year for three days if the child is in elementary school, or three or more class periods if the
5.22 child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, is a continuing truant in
5.23 accordance with section 260A.02, subdivision 3.

5.24 (c) A district must notify the child's parent or guardian that the child is a truant in
5.25 accordance with section 260A.03.

5.26 (d) Truancy programs may include community-based projects, truancy service centers,
5.27 and school attendance review boards, in accordance with section 260A.04.

5.28 (e) A county attorney may establish a truancy mediation program under section 260A.07.
5.29 A school district may refer a student who is a truant to the county attorney if the student
5.30 continues to be a truant after the district has notified the parent or guardian that the child is
5.31 a truant under section 260A.03. Disclosure of student data to the county attorney for purposes
5.32 of addressing truancy is governed by section 13.32, subdivision 3, paragraph (c); section
5.33 260A.07; and chapter 260E.

6.1 Subd. 11. **Maltreatment.** (a) The definition of "child in need of protection or services,"
6.2 which includes a habitual truant, is governed by section 260C.007, subdivision 6. The
6.3 definition of "habitual truant" is governed by section 260C.007, subdivision 19.

6.4 (b) Presumptions regarding the intent of the parent when a child is absent from school
6.5 for purposes of determining compliance with compulsory instruction laws are governed by
6.6 section 260C.163, subdivision 11.

6.7 (c) Habitual truancy may also be considered reportable maltreatment of a minor under
6.8 chapter 260E. Maltreatment under section 260E.03, subdivision 12, includes neglect under
6.9 section 260E.03, subdivision 15. Neglect includes failure to ensure that the child is educated
6.10 as defined in sections 120A.22 and 260C.163, subdivision 11.

6.11 Subd. 12. **Criminal penalties.** (a) A person who fails or refuses to provide for instruction
6.12 of a child who is required to receive instruction when notified to do so by a truant officer
6.13 or other official, or who meets other conditions, is guilty of a petty misdemeanor in
6.14 accordance with section 120A.34.

6.15 (b) A person who causes or contributes to a child being a habitual truant may be charged
6.16 with a felony in accordance with section 609.26.

6.17 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.09, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

6.18 **Subd. 5. **Authorization; notification.**** (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
6.19 an 11th or 12th grade pupil enrolled in a school district, a charter school, or an American
6.20 Indian-controlled Tribal contract or grant school eligible for aid under section 124D.83,
6.21 except a foreign exchange pupil enrolled in a district under a cultural exchange program,
6.22 may apply to an eligible institution, as defined in subdivision 3, to enroll in nonsectarian
6.23 courses offered by that postsecondary institution.

6.24 (b) If an institution accepts a secondary pupil for enrollment under this section, the
6.25 institution shall send written notice to the pupil, the pupil's school or school district, and
6.26 the commissioner. The notice must indicate the course and hours of enrollment of that pupil.
6.27 The institution must notify the pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws
6.28 from the enrolled course. The institution must also notify the pupil's school as soon as
6.29 practicable if the pupil has been absent from a course for ten consecutive days on which
6.30 classes are held, based upon the postsecondary institution's academic calendar, and the pupil
6.31 is not receiving instruction in their home or hospital or other facility.

6.32 (c) If the pupil enrolls in a course for postsecondary credit, the institution must notify:

6.33 (1) the pupil about payment in the customary manner used by the institution; and

7.1 (2) the pupil's school as soon as practicable if the pupil withdraws from the course or
7.2 stops attending the course.

7.3 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.09, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

7.4 Subd. 5a. **Authorization; career or technical education.** A 10th, 11th, or 12th grade
7.5 pupil enrolled in a school district, a charter school, or an American Indian-controlled tribal
7.6 contract or grant school eligible for aid under section 124D.83, except a foreign exchange
7.7 pupil enrolled in a district under a cultural exchange program, may enroll in a career or
7.8 technical education course offered by a Minnesota state college or university. A 10th grade
7.9 pupil applying for enrollment in a career or technical education course under this subdivision
7.10 must have received a passing score on the 8th grade Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment
7.11 in reading as a condition of enrollment. A current 10th grade pupil who did not take the 8th
7.12 grade Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in reading may substitute another reading
7.13 assessment accepted by the enrolling postsecondary institution. A secondary pupil may
7.14 enroll in the pupil's first postsecondary options enrollment course under this subdivision.
7.15 A student who is refused enrollment by a Minnesota state college or university under this
7.16 subdivision may apply to an eligible institution offering a career or technical education
7.17 course. The postsecondary institution must give priority to its students according to
7.18 subdivision 9. If a secondary student receives a grade of "C" or better in the career or
7.19 technical education course taken under this subdivision, the postsecondary institution must
7.20 allow the student to take additional postsecondary courses for secondary credit at that
7.21 institution, not to exceed the limits in subdivision 8. A "career or technical course" is a
7.22 course that is part of a career and technical education program that provides individuals
7.23 with coherent, rigorous content aligned with academic standards and relevant technical
7.24 knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current and
7.25 emerging professions and provide technical skill proficiency, an industry recognized
7.26 credential, and a certificate, a diploma, or an associate degree.

7.27 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.09, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

7.28 Subd. 9. **Enrollment priority.** (a) A postsecondary institution must give priority to its
7.29 postsecondary students when enrolling pupils in grades 10, 11, and 12 in its courses. A
7.30 postsecondary institution may provide information about its programs to a secondary school
7.31 or to a pupil or parent and it may advertise or otherwise recruit or solicit a secondary pupil
7.32 to enroll in its programs on educational and programmatic grounds only ~~except,~~
7.33 ~~notwithstanding other law to the contrary, and for the 2014-2015 through 2019-2020 school~~
7.34 ~~years only, an eligible postsecondary institution may advertise or otherwise recruit or solicit~~

8.1 ~~a secondary pupil residing in a school district with 700 students or more in grades 10, 11,~~
8.2 ~~and 12, to enroll in its programs on educational, programmatic, or financial grounds.~~

8.3 (b) An institution must not enroll secondary pupils, for postsecondary enrollment options
8.4 purposes, in remedial, developmental, or other courses that are not college level except
8.5 when a student eligible to participate and enrolled in the graduation incentives program
8.6 under section 124D.68 enrolls full time in a middle or early college program. A middle or
8.7 early college program must be specifically designed to allow the student to earn dual high
8.8 school and college credit with a well-defined pathway to allow the student to earn a
8.9 postsecondary degree or credential. In this case, the student must receive developmental
8.10 college credit and not college credit for completing remedial or developmental courses.

8.11 (c) Once a pupil has been enrolled in any postsecondary course under this section, the
8.12 pupil must not be displaced by another student.

8.13 (d) If a postsecondary institution enrolls a secondary school pupil in a course under this
8.14 section, the postsecondary institution also must enroll in the same course an otherwise
8.15 enrolled and qualified postsecondary student who qualifies as a veteran under section
8.16 197.447, and demonstrates to the postsecondary institution's satisfaction that the institution's
8.17 established enrollment timelines were not practicable for that student.

8.18 (e) A postsecondary institution must allow secondary pupils to enroll in online courses
8.19 under this section consistent with the institution's policy regarding postsecondary pupil
8.20 enrollment in online courses.

8.21 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.094, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.22 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
8.23 the meanings given.

8.24 (b) "Blended instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student
8.25 learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through online instruction
8.26 under paragraph (f).

8.27 (c) "Digital instruction" means instruction facilitated by technology that offers students
8.28 an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of learning and includes blended
8.29 and online instruction.

8.30 (d) "Enrolling district" means the school district or charter school in which a student is
8.31 enrolled under section ~~120A.22, subdivision 4~~ 120A.05, subdivision 8, or chapter 124E.

9.1 (e) "Online course syllabus" means a written document that identifies the state academic
9.2 standards taught and assessed in a supplemental online course under paragraph (j); course
9.3 content outline; required course assessments; instructional methods; communication
9.4 procedures with students, guardians, and the enrolling district under paragraph (d); and
9.5 supports available to the student.

9.6 (f) "Online instruction" means a form of digital instruction that occurs when a student
9.7 learns primarily through digital technology away from a supervised physical setting.

9.8 (g) "Online instructional site" means a site that offers courses using online instruction
9.9 under paragraph (f) and may enroll students receiving online instruction under paragraph
9.10 (f).

9.11 (h) "Online teacher" means an employee of the enrolling district under paragraph (d) or
9.12 the supplemental online course provider under paragraph (k) who holds the appropriate
9.13 licensure under Minnesota Rules, chapter 8710, and is trained to provide online instruction
9.14 under paragraph (f).

9.15 (i) "Student" means a Minnesota resident enrolled in a school defined under section
9.16 120A.22, subdivision 4, in kindergarten through grade 12 up to the age of 21.

9.17 (j) "Supplemental online course" means an online learning course taken in place of a
9.18 course provided by the student's enrolling district under paragraph (d).

9.19 (k) "Supplemental online course provider" means a school district, an intermediate school
9.20 district, a state-operated school, an organization of two or more school districts operating
9.21 under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that is authorized
9.22 by the Department of Education to provide supplemental online courses under paragraph
9.23 (j).

9.24 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.52, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

9.25 Subd. 2. **Program approval.** (a) To receive aid under this section, a district, the
9.26 Department of Corrections, a private nonprofit organization, or a consortium including
9.27 districts, nonprofit organizations, or both must submit an application by June 1 describing
9.28 the program, on a form provided by the department. The program must be approved by the
9.29 commissioner according to the following criteria:

9.30 (1) how the needs of different levels of learning and English language proficiency will
9.31 be met;

9.32 (2) for continuing programs, an evaluation of results;

- 10.1 (3) anticipated number and education level of participants;
- 10.2 (4) coordination with other resources and services;
- 10.3 (5) participation in a consortium, if any, and money available from other participants;
- 10.4 (6) management and program design;
- 10.5 (7) volunteer training and use of volunteers;
- 10.6 (8) staff development services;
- 10.7 (9) program sites and schedules;
- 10.8 (10) program expenditures that qualify for aid;
- 10.9 (11) program ability to provide data related to learner outcomes as required by law; and
- 10.10 (12) a copy of the memorandum of understanding described in subdivision 1 submitted
- 10.11 to the commissioner.
- 10.12 (b) Adult basic education programs may be approved under this subdivision for up to
- 10.13 ~~five~~ six years. ~~Five-year~~ Six-year program approval must be granted to an applicant who
- 10.14 has demonstrated the capacity to:
- 10.15 (1) offer comprehensive learning opportunities and support service choices appropriate
- 10.16 for and accessible to adults at all basic skill and English language levels of need;
- 10.17 (2) provide a participatory and experiential learning approach based on the strengths,
- 10.18 interests, and needs of each adult, that enables adults with basic skill needs to:
- 10.19 (i) identify, plan for, and evaluate their own progress toward achieving their defined
- 10.20 educational and occupational goals;
- 10.21 (ii) master the basic academic reading, writing, and computational skills, as well as the
- 10.22 problem-solving, decision making, interpersonal effectiveness, and other life and learning
- 10.23 skills they need to function effectively in a changing society;
- 10.24 (iii) locate and be able to use the health, governmental, and social services and resources
- 10.25 they need to improve their own and their families' lives; and
- 10.26 (iv) continue their education, if they desire, to at least the level of secondary school
- 10.27 completion, with the ability to secure and benefit from continuing education that will enable
- 10.28 them to become more employable, productive, and responsible citizens;

11.1 (3) plan, coordinate, and develop cooperative agreements with community resources to
11.2 address the needs that the adults have for support services, such as transportation, English
11.3 language learning, flexible course scheduling, convenient class locations, and child care;

11.4 (4) collaborate with business, industry, labor unions, and employment-training agencies,
11.5 as well as with family and occupational education providers, to arrange for resources and
11.6 services through which adults can attain economic self-sufficiency;

11.7 (5) provide sensitive and well trained adult education personnel who participate in local,
11.8 regional, and statewide adult basic education staff development events to master effective
11.9 adult learning and teaching techniques;

11.10 (6) participate in regional adult basic education peer program reviews and evaluations;

11.11 (7) submit accurate and timely performance and fiscal reports;

11.12 (8) submit accurate and timely reports related to program outcomes and learner follow-up
11.13 information; and

11.14 (9) spend adult basic education aid on adult basic education purposes only, which are
11.15 specified in sections 124D.518 to 124D.531.

11.16 (c) The commissioner shall require each district to provide notification by February 1,
11.17 of its intent to apply for funds under this section as a single district or as part of a consortium.
11.18 A district receiving funds under this section must notify the commissioner by February 1
11.19 of its intent to change its application status for applications due the following June 1.

11.20 Sec. 10. **SCHOOL START DATE FOR THE 2026-2027 AND 2027-2028 SCHOOL**
11.21 **YEARS ONLY.**

11.22 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.40, for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028
11.23 school years only, a school district may begin the school year on or after September 1. This
11.24 section does not limit a school district that otherwise qualifies to begin the school year on
11.25 any day before Labor Day as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.40.

11.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

11.27 **ARTICLE 2**
11.28 **EDUCATION EXCELLENCE**

11.29 Section 1. **[120B.213] HEALTHY AGING AND DEMENTIA EDUCATION.**

11.30 School districts and charter schools are encouraged to provide instruction on healthy
11.31 aging and dementia to students in grades 6 through 12 that is aligned with applicable health

12.1 standards and integrated into existing programs, curriculum, or the general school
12.2 environment of a district or charter school.

12.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025.

12.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.215, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

12.5 Subdivision 1. **Model program.** The commissioner of education, in consultation with
12.6 the commissioners of health and human services, local district and school health education
12.7 specialists, and other qualified experts, shall identify one or more model programs that may
12.8 be used to educate middle school and high school students on the health effects on children
12.9 and adolescents of cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of
12.10 fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, consistent with local standards as required in
12.11 section 120B.021, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (6), for elementary and secondary
12.12 school students. The commissioner must publish a list of model programs that include
12.13 written materials, resources, and training for instructors by June 1, 2025. A model program
12.14 identified by the commissioner must be medically accurate, age and developmentally
12.15 appropriate, culturally inclusive, and grounded in science, and must address:

12.16 (1) the physical and mental health effects of cannabis use and substance use by children,
12.17 adolescents, and persons under 25 years of age, including effects on the developing brains
12.18 of children, adolescents, and persons under 25 years of age;

12.19 (2) unsafe or unhealthy behaviors associated with cannabis use and substance use;

12.20 (3) signs of substance use disorders;

12.21 (4) treatment options; ~~and~~

12.22 (5) healthy coping strategies for children and adolescents; and

12.23 (6) overdose recognition, prevention, and response.

12.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

12.25 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.22, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

12.26 Subdivision 1. **Violence prevention curriculum.** (a) The commissioner of education,
12.27 in consultation with the commissioners of health and human services, state minority councils,
12.28 battered women's and domestic abuse programs, battered women's shelters, sexual assault
12.29 centers, representatives of religious communities, and the assistant commissioner of the
12.30 Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, shall assist districts on request in developing
12.31 or implementing a violence prevention program for students in kindergarten to grade 12

13.1 that can be integrated into existing curriculum. The purpose of the program is to help students
13.2 learn how to resolve conflicts within their families and communities in nonviolent, effective
13.3 ways.

13.4 (b) Each district is encouraged to integrate into its existing curriculum a program for
13.5 violence prevention that includes at least:

13.6 (1) a comprehensive, accurate, and age appropriate curriculum on violence prevention,
13.7 nonviolent conflict resolution, sexual, racial, and cultural harassment, self-protection, and
13.8 student hazing that promotes equality, respect, understanding, effective communication,
13.9 individual responsibility, thoughtful decision making, positive conflict resolution, useful
13.10 coping skills, critical thinking, listening and watching skills, and personal safety;

13.11 (2) planning materials, guidelines, and other accurate information on preventing physical
13.12 and emotional violence, identifying and reducing the incidence of sexual, racial, and cultural
13.13 harassment, and reducing child abuse, including physical abuse, and neglect;

13.14 (3) a special parent education component of early childhood family education programs
13.15 to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote positive parenting skills, giving priority
13.16 to services and outreach programs for at-risk families;

13.17 (4) involvement of parents and other community members, including the clergy, business
13.18 representatives, civic leaders, local elected officials, law enforcement officials, and the
13.19 county attorney;

13.20 (5) collaboration with local community services, agencies, and organizations that assist
13.21 in violence intervention or prevention, including family-based services, crisis services, life
13.22 management skills services, case coordination services, mental health services, and early
13.23 intervention services;

13.24 (6) collaboration among districts and service cooperatives;

13.25 (7) targeting early adolescents for prevention efforts, especially early adolescents whose
13.26 personal circumstances may lead to violent or harassing behavior;

13.27 (8) opportunities for teachers to receive in-service training or attend other programs on
13.28 strategies or curriculum designed to assist students in intervening in or preventing violence
13.29 in school and at home; and

13.30 (9) administrative policies that reflect, and a staff that models, nonviolent behaviors that
13.31 do not display or condone sexual, racial, or cultural harassment or student hazing.

14.1 (c) The department may provide assistance at a neutral site to a nonpublic school
14.2 participating in a district's program.

14.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

14.4 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.35, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

14.5 Subd. 3. **State growth measures; other state measures.** (a)(1) The state's educational
14.6 assessment system measuring individual students' educational growth is based on indicators
14.7 of current achievement that show growth relative to an individual student's prior achievement.
14.8 Indicators of achievement and prior achievement must be based on highly reliable statewide
14.9 or districtwide assessments.

14.10 (2) For purposes of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), the commissioner must analyze and
14.11 report separate categories of information using the student categories identified under the
14.12 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and, in
14.13 addition to "other" for each race and ethnicity, and the Karen community, seven of the most
14.14 populous Asian and Pacific Islander groups, three of the most populous Native groups,
14.15 seven of the most populous Hispanic/Latino groups, and five of the most populous Black
14.16 and African Heritage groups as determined by the total Minnesota population based on the
14.17 most recent American Community Survey; English learners under section 124D.59; home
14.18 language; free or reduced-price meals; and all students enrolled in a Minnesota public school
14.19 who are currently or were previously in foster care, except that such disaggregation and
14.20 cross tabulation is not required if the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield
14.21 statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information
14.22 about an individual student.

14.23 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with a stakeholder group that includes assessment
14.24 and evaluation directors, district staff, experts in culturally responsive teaching, and
14.25 researchers, must implement an appropriate growth model that compares the difference in
14.26 students' achievement scores over time, and includes criteria for identifying schools and
14.27 school districts that demonstrate academic progress or progress toward English language
14.28 proficiency. The model may be used to advance educators' professional development and
14.29 replicate programs that succeed in meeting students' diverse learning needs. Data on
14.30 individual teachers generated under the model are personnel data under section 13.43. The
14.31 model must allow users to:

14.32 (1) report student growth consistent with this paragraph; and

(2) for all student categories, report and compare aggregated and disaggregated state student growth and, under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2), student learning and outcome data using the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and other student categories under paragraph (a), clause (2).

The commissioner must report measures of student growth and, under section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2), student learning and outcome data, consistent with this paragraph, including the English language development, academic progress, and oral academic development of English learners and their native language development if the native language is used as a language of instruction, and include data on all pupils enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted as an English learner under section 124D.59. In addition, the commissioner must report language development outcomes of the target language of instruction other than English for all students who are in a dual language immersion program or who are enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program in which the objective is improving or maintaining the students' native language.

(c) When reporting student performance under section 120B.36, subdivision 1, the commissioner annually, beginning July 1, 2011, must report two core measures indicating the extent to which current high school graduates are being prepared for postsecondary academic and career opportunities:

(1) a preparation measure indicating the number and percentage of high school graduates in the most recent school year who completed course work important to preparing them for postsecondary academic and career opportunities, consistent with the core academic subjects required for admission to Minnesota's public colleges and universities as determined by the Office of Higher Education under chapter 136A; and

(2) a rigorous coursework measure indicating the number and percentage of high school graduates in the most recent school year who successfully completed one or more college-level advanced placement, international baccalaureate, postsecondary enrollment options including concurrent enrollment, other rigorous courses of study under section 120B.021, subdivision 1a, or industry certification courses or programs.

When reporting the core measures under clauses (1) and (2), the commissioner must also analyze and report separate categories of information using the student categories identified under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as most recently reauthorized, and other student categories under paragraph (a), clause (2).

(d) When reporting student performance under section 120B.36, subdivision 1, the commissioner annually, beginning July 1, 2014, must report summary data on school safety and students' engagement and connection at school, consistent with the student categories identified under paragraph (a), clause (2). The summary data under this paragraph are separate from and must not be used for any purpose related to measuring or evaluating the performance of classroom teachers. The commissioner, in consultation with qualified experts on student engagement and connection and classroom teachers, must identify highly reliable variables that generate summary data under this paragraph. The summary data may be used at school, district, and state levels only. Any data on individuals received, collected, or created that are used to generate the summary data under this paragraph are nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9.

(e) For purposes of statewide educational accountability, the commissioner must identify and report measures that demonstrate the success of learning year program providers under sections 123A.05 and 124D.68, among other such providers, in improving students' graduation outcomes. The commissioner, beginning July 1, 2015, must annually report summary data on:

(1) the four- and six-year graduation rates of students under this paragraph;

(2) the percent of students under this paragraph whose progress and performance levels are meeting career and college readiness benchmarks under section 120B.307; and

(3) the success that learning year program providers experience in:

(i) identifying at-risk and off-track student populations by grade;

(ii) providing successful prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk students;

(iii) providing successful recuperative and recovery or reenrollment strategies for off-track students; and

(iv) improving the graduation outcomes of at-risk and off-track students.

The commissioner may include in the annual report summary data on other education providers serving a majority of students eligible to participate in a learning year program.

(f) The commissioner, in consultation with recognized experts with knowledge and experience in assessing the language proficiency and academic performance of all English learners enrolled in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted as an English learner under section 124D.59, must identify and report appropriate and effective measures to improve current categories of language difficulty and

17.1 assessments, and monitor and report data on students' English proficiency levels, program
17.2 placement, and academic language development, including oral academic language.

17.3 (g) When reporting four- and six-year graduation rates, the commissioner or school
17.4 district must disaggregate the data by student categories according to paragraph (a), clause
17.5 (2).

17.6 (h) A school district must inform parents and guardians that volunteering information
17.7 on student categories not required by the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and
17.8 Secondary Education Act is optional and will not violate the privacy of students or their
17.9 families, parents, or guardians. The notice must state the purpose for collecting the student
17.10 data.

17.11 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.031, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

17.12 Subd. 4. **Local policy components.** (a) Each district and school policy implemented
17.13 under this section must, at a minimum:

17.14 (1) designate a staff member as the primary contact person in the school building to
17.15 receive reports of prohibited conduct under clause (3), ensure the policy and its procedures
17.16 including restorative practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented,
17.17 and serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters implicating both the
17.18 district or school and the department;

17.19 (2) require school employees who witness prohibited conduct or possess reliable
17.20 information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that a student is a target of
17.21 prohibited conduct to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the prohibited conduct;

17.22 (3) provide a procedure to begin to investigate reports of prohibited conduct within three
17.23 school days of the report, and make the primary contact person responsible for the
17.24 investigation and any resulting record and for keeping and regulating access to any record;

17.25 (4) indicate how a school will respond to an identified incident of prohibited conduct,
17.26 including immediately intervening to protect the target of the prohibited conduct; at the
17.27 school administrator's discretion and consistent with state and federal data practices law
17.28 governing access to data, including section 13.02, subdivision 8, a presumption that a district
17.29 or school official will notify the parent of the reported target of the prohibited conduct and
17.30 the parent of the actor engaged in the prohibited conduct; providing other remedial responses
17.31 to the prohibited conduct; and ensuring that remedial responses are tailored to the particular
17.32 incident and nature of the conduct and the student's developmental age and behavioral
17.33 history. For purposes of the notification presumed under this clause, a parent or legal guardian

18.1 may designate in writing to the school another individual to be notified of the prohibited
18.2 conduct;

18.3 (5) prohibit reprisals or retaliation against any person who asserts, alleges, or reports
18.4 prohibited conduct or provides information about such conduct and establish appropriate
18.5 consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation;

18.6 (6) allow anonymous reporting but do not rely solely on an anonymous report to
18.7 determine discipline;

18.8 (7) provide information about available community resources to the target, actor, and
18.9 other affected individuals, as appropriate;

18.10 (8) where appropriate for a child with a disability to prevent or respond to prohibited
18.11 conduct, allow the child's individualized education program or section 504 plan to address
18.12 the skills and proficiencies the child needs to respond to or not engage in prohibited conduct;

18.13 (9) use new employee training materials, the school publication on school rules,
18.14 procedures, and standards of conduct, and the student handbook on school policies to
18.15 publicize the policy;

18.16 (10) require ongoing professional development, consistent with section 122A.60, to
18.17 build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students, including but
18.18 not limited to educators, administrators, school counselors, social workers, psychologists,
18.19 other school mental health professionals, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus
18.20 drivers, athletic coaches, extracurricular activities advisors, and paraprofessionals to identify,
18.21 prevent, and appropriately address prohibited conduct;

18.22 (11) allow the alleged actor in an investigation of prohibited conduct to present a defense;
18.23 and

18.24 (12) inform affected students and their parents of their rights under state and federal
18.25 data practices laws to obtain access to data related to the incident and their right to contest
18.26 the accuracy or completeness of the data.

18.27 (b) Professional development under a local policy includes, but is not limited to,
18.28 information about:

18.29 (1) developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and
18.30 effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;

18.31 (2) the complex dynamics affecting an actor, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;

19.1 (3) research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for
19.2 prohibited conduct in school;

19.3 (4) the incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and

19.4 (5) Internet safety and cyberbullying.

19.5 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.031, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

19.6 Subd. 6. **State model policy.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the
19.7 commissioner of human rights, shall develop and maintain a state model policy. A district
19.8 or school that does not adopt and implement a local policy under subdivisions 3 to 5 must
19.9 implement and may supplement the provisions of the state model policy. The commissioner
19.10 must assist districts and schools under this subdivision to implement the state policy. The
19.11 state model policy must:

19.12 (1) define prohibited conduct, consistent with this section;

19.13 (2) apply the prohibited conduct policy components in this section;

19.14 (3) for a child with a disability, whenever an evaluation by an individualized education
19.15 program team or a section 504 team indicates that the child's disability affects the child's
19.16 social skills development or the child is vulnerable to prohibited conduct because of the
19.17 child's disability, the child's individualized education program or section 504 plan may
19.18 address the skills and proficiencies the child needs to not engage in and respond to such
19.19 conduct; and

19.20 (4) encourage violence prevention and character development education programs under
19.21 section 120B.232, subdivision 1.

19.22 (b) The commissioner shall develop and post departmental procedures for:

19.23 (1) periodically reviewing district and school programs and policies for compliance with
19.24 this section;

19.25 (2) ~~investigating~~ assessing, evaluating, reporting, and responding to noncompliance with
19.26 this section, which may include an annual review of plans to improve and provide a safe
19.27 and supportive school climate; and

19.28 (3) allowing students, parents, and educators to file a complaint about noncompliance
19.29 with the commissioner.

19.30 (c) The commissioner must post on the department's website information indicating that
19.31 when districts and schools allow non-curriculum-related student groups access to school

20.1 facilities, the district or school must give all student groups equal access to the school
20.2 facilities regardless of the content of the group members' speech.

20.3 (d) The commissioner must develop and maintain resources to assist a district or school
20.4 in implementing strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based,
20.5 social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

20.6 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.22, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

20.7 Subd. 2. **Exclusions.** In addition, this section does not apply to drugs or medicine that
20.8 are:

20.9 (1) purchased without a prescription;

20.10 (2) used by a pupil who is 18 years old or older;

20.11 (3) used in connection with services for which a minor may give effective consent,
20.12 including section 144.343, subdivision 1, and any other law;

20.13 (4) used in situations in which, in the judgment of the school personnel, including a
20.14 licensed nurse, who are present or available, the risk to the pupil's life or health is of such
20.15 a nature that drugs or medicine should be given without delay;

20.16 (5) used off the school grounds;

20.17 (6) used in connection with athletics or extra curricular activities;

20.18 (7) used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day;

20.19 (8) provided or administered by a public health agency to prevent or control an illness
20.20 or a disease outbreak as provided for in sections 144.05 and 144.12;

20.21 (9) prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications self-administered by a
20.22 pupil with an asthma inhaler, consistent with section 121A.221, if the district has received
20.23 a written authorization from the pupil's parent permitting the pupil to self-administer the
20.24 medication, the inhaler is properly labeled for that student, and the parent has not requested
20.25 school personnel to administer the medication to the pupil. The parent must submit written
20.26 authorization for the pupil to self-administer the medication each school year; or

20.27 (10) epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems, consistent with section 121A.2205, if
20.28 the parent and prescribing medical professional annually inform the pupil's school in writing
20.29 that (i) the pupil may possess the epinephrine or (ii) the pupil is unable to possess the
20.30 epinephrine and requires immediate access to epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems
20.31 that the parent provides properly labeled to the school for the pupil as needed.

21.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.2205, is amended to read:

21.2 **121A.2205 POSSESSION AND USE OF EPINEPHRINE ~~AUTO-INJECTORS~~**
21.3 **DELIVERY SYSTEMS; MODEL POLICY.**

21.4 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:

21.5 (1) "administer" means the direct application of an epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ delivery
21.6 system to the body of an individual;

21.7 (2) "epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ delivery system" means a ~~device that automatically injects~~
21.8 ~~a premeasured dose of epinephrine~~ medication product approved by the United States Food
21.9 and Drug Administration that automatically delivers a single, premeasured dose of
21.10 epinephrine to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction; and

21.11 (3) "school" means a public school under section 120A.22, subdivision 4, or a nonpublic
21.12 school, excluding a home school, under section 120A.22, subdivision 4, that is subject to
21.13 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

21.14 Subd. 2. **Plan for use of epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems.** (a) At the start
21.15 of each school year or at the time a student enrolls in school, whichever is first, a student's
21.16 parent, school staff, including those responsible for student health care, and the prescribing
21.17 medical professional must develop and implement an individualized written health plan for
21.18 a student who is prescribed epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems that enables the
21.19 student to:

21.20 (1) possess epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems; or

21.21 (2) if the parent and prescribing medical professional determine the student is unable to
21.22 possess the epinephrine, have immediate access to epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery
21.23 systems in close proximity to the student at all times during the instructional day.

21.24 The plan must designate the school staff responsible for implementing the student's
21.25 health plan, including recognizing anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~
21.26 delivery systems when required, consistent with section 121A.22, subdivision 2, clause
21.27 (10). This health plan may be included in a student's 504 plan.

21.28 (b) Other nonpublic schools are encouraged to develop and implement an individualized
21.29 written health plan for students requiring epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems,
21.30 consistent with this section and section 121A.22, subdivision 2, clause (10).

21.31 (c) A school district and its agents and employees are immune from liability for any act
21.32 or failure to act, made in good faith, in implementing this section and section 121A.2207.

22.1 (d) The ~~education~~ commissioner of education, in collaboration with the commissioner
22.2 of health, may develop and transmit to interested schools a model policy and individualized
22.3 health plan form consistent with this section and federal 504 plan requirements. The policy
22.4 and form may:

22.5 (1) assess a student's ability to safely possess epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems;

22.6 (2) identify staff training needs related to recognizing anaphylaxis and administering
22.7 epinephrine when needed;

22.8 (3) accommodate a student's need to possess or have immediate access to epinephrine
22.9 ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems in close proximity to the student at all times during the
22.10 instructional day; and

22.11 (4) ensure that the student's parent provides properly labeled epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~
22.12 delivery systems to the school for the student as needed.

22.13 (e) Additional epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems may be available in school
22.14 first aid kits.

22.15 (f) The school board of the school district must define instructional day for the purposes
22.16 of this section.

22.17 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.2207, is amended to read:

22.18 **121A.2207 LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS; STOCK SUPPLY**
22.19 **OF EPINEPHRINE ~~AUTO-INJECTORS~~ DELIVERY SYSTEMS.**

22.20 Subdivision 1. **Districts and schools permitted to maintain supply.** (a) Notwithstanding
22.21 section 151.37, districts and schools may obtain and possess epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~
22.22 delivery systems to be maintained and administered by school personnel, including a licensed
22.23 nurse, to a student or other individual if, in good faith, it is determined that person is
22.24 experiencing anaphylaxis regardless of whether the student or other individual has a
22.25 prescription for an epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ delivery system. The administration of an
22.26 epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ delivery system in accordance with this section is not the practice
22.27 of medicine.

22.28 (b) Registered nurses may administer epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems in a
22.29 school setting according to a condition-specific protocol as authorized under section 148.235,
22.30 subdivision 8. Notwithstanding any limitation in sections 148.171 to 148.285, licensed
22.31 practical nurses may administer epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems in a school
22.32 setting according to a condition-specific protocol that does not reference a specific patient

23.1 and that specifies the circumstances under which the epinephrine ~~auto-injector~~ delivery
23.2 system is to be administered, when caring for a patient whose condition falls within the
23.3 protocol.

23.4 Subd. 2. **Arrangements with manufacturers.** A district or school may enter into
23.5 arrangements with manufacturers of epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems to obtain
23.6 epinephrine ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems at fair-market, free, or reduced prices. A third
23.7 party, other than a manufacturer or supplier, may pay for a school's supply of epinephrine
23.8 ~~auto-injectors~~ delivery systems.

23.9 Subd. 3. **Standing order for distribution and condition-specific protocol.** The
23.10 commissioner of health must provide a district or school with a standing order for distribution
23.11 of epinephrine delivery systems under sections 148.235, subdivision 8; and 151.37,
23.12 subdivision 2.

23.13 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.224, is amended to read:

23.14 **121A.224 OPIATE ANTAGONISTS.**

23.15 Subdivision 1. **School district or charter school.** (a) A school district or charter school
23.16 must maintain a supply of opiate antagonists, as defined in section 604A.04, subdivision 1,
23.17 at each school site to be administered in compliance with section 151.37, subdivision 12.

23.18 (b) Each school building must have at least two doses of a nasal opiate antagonist
23.19 available on site.

23.20 (c) The commissioner of health shall identify resources, including at least one training
23.21 video, to help schools implement an opiate antagonist emergency response and make the
23.22 resources available for schools.

23.23 (d) A school board may adopt a model plan for use, storage, and administration of opiate
23.24 antagonists.

23.25 Subd. 2. **High school students.** A school district or charter school may allow a student
23.26 in grades 9 through 12 to possess and administer an opiate antagonist to another high school
23.27 student. The protections of section 604A.04 apply to the possession and administration of
23.28 opiate antagonists according to this section.

23.29 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.092, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23.30 Subd. 2. **Requirements for board approval.** Teacher preparation programs must
23.31 demonstrate the following to obtain board approval:

24.1 (1) the program has implemented a research-based, results-oriented curriculum that
24.2 focuses on the skills teachers need in order to be effective;

24.3 (2) the program provides a student teaching program;

24.4 (3) the program demonstrates effectiveness based on proficiency of graduates in
24.5 demonstrating attainment of program outcomes;

24.6 (4) the program includes a common core of teaching knowledge and skills. This common
24.7 core shall meet the standards developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and
24.8 Support Consortium in its 1992 model standards for beginning teacher licensing and
24.9 development. Amendments to standards adopted under this clause are subject to chapter
24.10 14. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board shall report annually to the
24.11 education committees of the legislature on the performance of teacher candidates on common
24.12 core assessments of knowledge and skills under this clause during the most recent school
24.13 year;

24.14 (5) the program includes instruction on the knowledge and skills needed to provide
24.15 appropriate instruction to English learners to support and accelerate their academic literacy,
24.16 including oral academic language and achievement in content areas in a regular classroom
24.17 setting; and

24.18 (6) the program includes culturally competent training in instructional strategies consistent
24.19 with section 120B.30, subdivision 8.

24.20 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.092, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

24.21 Subd. 5. **Reading strategies.** (a) A teacher preparation provider approved by the
24.22 Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board to prepare persons for classroom
24.23 teacher licensure must include in its teacher preparation programs evidence-based best
24.24 practices in reading, consistent with sections 120B.118 to 120B.124, including instruction
24.25 on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading
24.26 comprehension. Instruction on reading must enable the licensure candidate to teach reading
24.27 in the candidate's content areas. Teacher candidates must be instructed in using students'
24.28 native languages as a resource in creating effective differentiated instructional strategies
24.29 for English learners developing literacy skills. A teacher preparation provider also must
24.30 prepare early childhood and elementary teacher candidates for Tier 3 and Tier 4 teaching
24.31 licenses under sections 122A.183 and 122A.184, respectively.

25.1 (b) Board-approved teacher preparation programs for teachers of elementary education
25.2 must require instruction in applying evidence-based, structured literacy reading instruction
25.3 programs that:

25.4 (1) teach students to read using foundational knowledge, practices, and strategies
25.5 consistent with sections 120B.118 to 120B.124, with emphasis on mastery of foundational
25.6 reading skills so that students achieve continuous progress in reading; and

25.7 (2) teach specialized instruction in reading strategies, interventions, and remediations
25.8 that enable students of all ages and proficiency levels, including multilingual learners and
25.9 students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia, to become proficient readers.

25.10 (c) Board-approved teacher preparation programs for teachers of elementary education,
25.11 early childhood education, special education, and reading intervention must include
25.12 instruction on dyslexia, as defined in section 125A.01, subdivision 2. Teacher preparation
25.13 programs may consult with the Department of Education, including the dyslexia specialist
25.14 under section 120B.122, to develop instruction under this paragraph. Instruction on dyslexia
25.15 must be modeled on practice standards of the International Dyslexia Association, and must
25.16 address:

25.17 (1) the nature and symptoms of dyslexia;

25.18 (2) resources available for students who show characteristics of dyslexia;

25.19 (3) evidence-based instructional strategies for students who show characteristics of
25.20 dyslexia, including the structured literacy approach; and

25.21 (4) outcomes of intervention and lack of intervention for students who show
25.22 characteristics of dyslexia.

25.23 (d) Nothing in this section limits the authority of a school district to select a school's
25.24 reading program or curriculum.

25.25 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.441, is amended to read:

25.26 **122A.441 SHORT-CALL EMERGENCY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ~~PILOT~~**
25.27 **PROGRAM.**

25.28 (a) A school district or charter school and applicant may jointly request the Professional
25.29 Educator Licensing and Standards Board approve an application for a short-call emergency
25.30 substitute teaching license. The application information must sufficiently demonstrate the
25.31 following:

25.32 (1) the applicant:

26.1 (i) holds a minimum of an associate's degree or equivalent and has or will receive
26.2 substitute training from the school district or charter school; or

26.3 (ii) holds a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and has been employed as
26.4 an education support personnel or paraprofessional within the district or charter school for
26.5 at least one academic year; and

26.6 (2) the school district or charter school has obtained the results of a background check
26.7 completed in accordance with section 123B.03.

26.8 (b) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board may issue a temporary
26.9 teaching license under this section pending a background check under section 122A.18,
26.10 subdivision 8, and may immediately suspend or revoke the license upon receiving background
26.11 check information. An applicant submitting an application for a short-call substitute teaching
26.12 license in accordance with section 122A.18, subdivision 7a, paragraph (a), must not be
26.13 required to complete a joint application with a district and must not be issued a license
26.14 pending a background check under section 122A.18, subdivision 8.

26.15 (c) The board may prioritize short-call emergency substitute teaching license applications
26.16 to expedite the review process.

26.17 (d) A school district or charter school must provide a short-call emergency substitute
26.18 teacher who receives a short-call emergency substitute teaching license ~~through the pilot~~
26.19 ~~program~~ with substitute teacher training. The board may remove a school district or charter
26.20 school from the ~~pilot~~ short-call emergency substitute teaching program for failure to provide
26.21 the required training.

26.22 (e) A school district or charter school must not require an employee to apply for a
26.23 short-call emergency substitute teaching license, or retaliate against an employee that does
26.24 not apply for a short-call emergency substitute teaching license under ~~the pilot program~~ this
26.25 section.

26.26 (f) A school district or charter school must compensate an employee working as a
26.27 short-call emergency substitute teacher under ~~the pilot program~~ this section with the greater
26.28 of ~~\$200 per day~~ the short-call substitute teacher rate of pay in the district or the employee's
26.29 regular rate of pay.

26.30 ~~(g) This section expires on June 30, 2025.~~

26.31 (g) A district may employ a short-call emergency substitute teacher for no more than
26.32 ten consecutive school days in a single assignment. A district solicitation for short-call

27.1 emergency substitute teacher applicants must disclose the duration of the short-call
 27.2 emergency substitute teacher position.

27.3 (h) For each teacher assignment, a district may use a short-call emergency substitute
 27.4 teacher to fill the assignment for no more than ten consecutive school days at a time.

27.5 (i) A district may employ a short-call emergency substitute teacher to fill an assignment
 27.6 that a short-call emergency substitute teacher previously filled as long as at least 30 calendar
 27.7 days have passed between the last day of the previous assignment and the first day of a
 27.8 subsequent assignment.

27.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

27.10 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.09, is amended by adding a subdivision
 27.11 to read:

27.12 Subd. 1b. **Student representation.** The school board is encouraged to adopt a process
 27.13 to include student representation to advise the school board.

27.14 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.52, is amended by adding a subdivision
 27.15 to read:

27.16 Subd. 6a. **Disposing of surplus books.** Notwithstanding section 471.345, governing
 27.17 school district contracts made upon sealed bid or otherwise complying with the requirements
 27.18 for competitive bidding, other provisions of this section governing school district contracts,
 27.19 or other law to the contrary, a school district under this subdivision may dispose of school
 27.20 books, including library books, books from an individual classroom library, and textbooks
 27.21 including other materials accompanying a textbook. A school district may dispose of surplus
 27.22 books by donating them to a family of a student residing in the district or a charitable
 27.23 organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

27.24 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.162, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

27.25 Subd. 4. **Implementation.** The requirements under this section must be phased in over
 27.26 ~~three~~ four school years with all school districts and charter schools complying beginning
 27.27 with the ~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 school year.

27.28 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.42, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

27.29 Subd. 9. **Minnesota math corps program.** (a) A Minnesota math corps program is
 27.30 established to ~~give~~ provide ServeMinnesota AmeriCorps members with a data-based

problem-solving model of mathematics instruction ~~useful for~~ to use in providing elementary and middle school students and their teachers with instructional support. Minnesota math corps must use evidence-based instructional support to evaluate and accelerate student learning on foundational mathematics skills that enable students to meet state academic standards in mathematics and long-term proficiency expectations for the workforce.

(b) The commission must submit a biennial report to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education that records and evaluates program data to determine the efficacy of the programs under this subdivision.

(c) For purposes of this subdivision, "evidence-based" means the instruction or curriculum is based on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence and has demonstrated a record of success in increasing student competency and proficiency in mathematics and numeracy.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 18. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.935, subdivision 2, is repealed.

ARTICLE 3

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.071, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Gift" means money, real or personal property, a service, a loan, a forbearance or forgiveness of indebtedness, or a promise of future employment, that is given and received without the giver receiving consideration of equal or greater value in return.

(c) "Official" means a public official, an employee of the legislature, ~~or~~ a local official, a member of a charter school board, or a charter school director or chief administrator.

(d) "Plaque" means a decorative item with an inscription recognizing an individual for an accomplishment.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.02, is amended to read:

124E.02 DEFINITIONS.

(a) For purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

29.1 (b) "Affidavit" means a written statement the authorizer submits to the commissioner
29.2 for approval to establish a charter school under section 124E.06, subdivision 4, attesting to
29.3 its review and approval process before chartering a school.

29.4 (c) "Affiliate" means a person that directly or indirectly, through one or more
29.5 intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person.

29.6 (d) "Charter management organization" or "CMO" means a nonprofit entity or
29.7 organization that operates or manages a charter school or a network of charter schools or
29.8 can control all or substantially all of a school's education program or a school's administrative,
29.9 financial, business, or operational functions.

29.10 (e) "Competitive procurement process" means a process for procurement by sealed bids
29.11 or by proposals under section 124E.26, subdivision 4a.

29.12 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Control" means the ability to affect the management, operations, or policy actions
29.13 or decisions of a person, whether by owning voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

29.14 ~~(f)~~ (g) "Educational management organization" or "EMO" means a for-profit entity or
29.15 organization that operates or manages a charter school or a network of charter schools or
29.16 can control all or substantially all of a school's education program, or a school's
29.17 administrative, financial, business, or operational functions.

29.18 ~~(g)~~ (h) "Immediate family member" means any relationship by blood, marriage, adoption,
29.19 or partnership of spouses, parents, grandparents, siblings, children, first cousins, aunts,
29.20 uncles, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

29.21 ~~(h)~~ (i) "Market need and demand study" means a study that includes the following for
29.22 the proposed locations of the school or additional site that supports all of the proposed
29.23 grades, sites, and programs:

29.24 (1) current and projected demographic information;

29.25 (2) student enrollment patterns;

29.26 (3) information on existing schools and types of educational programs currently available;

29.27 (4) characteristics of proposed students and families;

29.28 (5) availability of properly zoned and classified facilities; and

29.29 (6) quantification of existing demand for the school or site.

29.30 ~~(i)~~ (j) "Person" means an individual or entity of any kind.

30.1 ~~(j)~~ (k) "Related party" means an affiliate or immediate family member of the other
30.2 interested party, an affiliate of an immediate family member who is the other interested
30.3 party, or an immediate family member of an affiliate who is the other interested party.

30.4 ~~(k)~~ (l) For purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in section 120A.05 have the same
30.5 meanings.

30.6 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

30.7 Subd. 2. **Certain federal, state, and local requirements.** (a) A charter school shall
30.8 meet all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements applicable to school districts.

30.9 (b) A charter school must comply with ~~statewide accountability requirements governing~~
30.10 ~~standards and assessments in~~ chapter 120B.

30.11 (c) A charter school must comply with the Minnesota Public School Fee Law, sections
30.12 123B.34 to 123B.39.

30.13 (d) A charter school is a district for the purposes of tort liability under chapter 466.

30.14 (e) A charter school must comply with the Pledge of Allegiance requirement under
30.15 section 121A.11, subdivision 3.

30.16 (f) A charter school and charter school board of directors must comply with chapter 181
30.17 governing requirements for employment.

30.18 (g) A charter school must comply with continuing truant notification under section
30.19 260A.03.

30.20 (h) A charter school must develop and implement a teacher evaluation and peer review
30.21 process under section 122A.40, subdivision 8, paragraph (b), clauses (2) to (13), and place
30.22 students in classrooms in accordance with section 122A.40, subdivision 8, paragraph (d).
30.23 The teacher evaluation process in this paragraph does not create any additional employment
30.24 rights for teachers.

30.25 (i) A charter school must adopt a plan, budget, and process, consistent with section
30.26 120B.11, to review curriculum, instruction, and student achievement and strive for
30.27 comprehensive achievement and civic readiness.

30.28 (j) A charter school is subject to and must comply with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act,
30.29 sections 121A.40 to 121A.56 and 121A.575, 121A.60, 121A.61, and 121A.65.

31.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.03, is amended by adding a subdivision to
31.2 read:

31.3 Subd. 11. **Statement of economic interest; gift ban.** Members of charter school boards
31.4 and persons employed as charter school directors and chief administrators are subject to the
31.5 requirements of sections 10A.071 and 471.895.

31.6 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

31.7 Subd. 2. **Roles, responsibilities, and requirements of authorizers.** (a) The role of an
31.8 authorizer is to ensure that a school it authorizes has the autonomy granted by statute, fulfills
31.9 the purposes of a charter school, and is accountable to the agreed upon terms of the charter
31.10 school contract in order to safeguard quality educational opportunities for students and
31.11 maintain public trust and confidence.

31.12 (b) An authorizer has the following responsibilities:

31.13 (1) to review applications for new schools, determine whether a new school is ready to
31.14 open, review applications for grade and site expansions, review applications for change in
31.15 authorizers, and determine whether to approve or deny an application based on the
31.16 authorizer's approved criteria;

31.17 (2) to negotiate and execute the performance charter contracts with the schools it
31.18 authorizes;

31.19 (3) to conduct ongoing monitoring, oversight, and evaluation of the school's academic,
31.20 operational, and financial performance during the term of the charter contract;

31.21 (4) to evaluate the academic, operational, and financial performance of the school as
31.22 defined in the charter contract prior to the end of the contract to determine the renewal,
31.23 nonrenewal, or termination of the contract; and

31.24 (5) to comply with authorizer requirements in chapter 124E.

31.25 (c) An authorizer must document in the authorizer annual report under section 124E.16,
31.26 subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the annual successful completion of training of its staff members
31.27 during the previous year relative to chartering ~~and~~, an authorizer's role and responsibilities,
31.28 and each authorizer's performance review findings listed under subdivision 5.

31.29 (d) An authorizer must participate in annual department-approved training.

32.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.06, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

32.2 Subd. 7. **Merger.** (a) Two or more charter schools may merge under chapter 317A. The
32.3 effective date of a merger must be July 1. The merged school must continue under the
32.4 identity of one of the merging schools. The authorizer and the merged school must execute
32.5 a new charter contract under section 124E.10, subdivision 1, by July June 1, before the
32.6 effective date of the merger. The authorizer must submit to the commissioner a copy of the
32.7 new signed charter contract within ten business days of executing the contract.

32.8 (b) Each merging school must submit a separate year-end report for the previous fiscal
32.9 year for that school only. After the final fiscal year of the premerger schools is closed out,
32.10 each of those schools must transfer the fund balances and debts to the merged school.

32.11 (c) For its first year of operation, the merged school is eligible to receive aid from
32.12 programs requiring approved applications equal to the sum of the aid of all of the merging
32.13 schools. For aids based on prior year data, the merged school is eligible to receive aid for
32.14 its first year of operation based on the combined data of all of the merging schools.

32.15 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.06, is amended by adding a subdivision to
32.16 read:

32.17 Subd. 8. **Change in location.** A developing, preoperational, or operational charter school
32.18 with an approved affidavit must apply to its authorizer to change the charter school's location
32.19 by submitting documentation, including a revised market need and demand study, to the
32.20 authorizer for authorizer review and approval. The authorizer must establish a review process
32.21 to ensure the location change will address market need and demand as well as the charter
32.22 school's ongoing viability.

32.23 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

32.24 Subd. 2. **Ongoing board of directors.** The initial board must begin the transition to the
32.25 ongoing board structure by the end of the first year of operation and complete the transition
32.26 by the end of the second year of operation. The terms of board members shall begin on July
32.27 1. Terms shall be no less than two years. The bylaws shall set the number of terms an
32.28 individual may serve on the board and as an officer of the board. ~~Board elections must be~~
32.29 ~~held during the school year but may not be conducted on days when the school is closed.~~

32.30 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.07, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

32.31 Subd. 3. **Membership criteria.** (a) The ongoing charter school board of directors shall
32.32 have at least five members. The board members must not be related parties. The ongoing

33.1 board must include: (1) at least one licensed teacher; (2) at least one parent or legal guardian
33.2 of a student enrolled in the charter school who is not an employee of the charter school; and
33.3 (3) at least one interested community member. A community member serving on the board
33.4 must reside in Minnesota, must not have a child enrolled in the school, and must not be an
33.5 employee of the charter school.

33.6 (b) To serve as a licensed teacher on a charter school board, an individual must:

33.7 (1) be employed by the school or provide at least 720 hours of service under a contract
33.8 between the charter school and a teacher cooperative;

33.9 (2) be a qualified teacher as defined under section 122A.16, either serving as a teacher
33.10 of record in a field in which the individual has a field license, or providing services to
33.11 students the individual is licensed to provide; and

33.12 (3) not serve in an administrative or supervisory capacity for more than 240 hours in a
33.13 school calendar year.

33.14 (c) The board structure must be defined in the bylaws. The board structure may (1) be
33.15 a majority of teachers under paragraph (b), (2) be a majority of parents, (3) be a majority
33.16 of community members, or (4) have no clear majority.

33.17 (d) The chief administrator may only serve as an ex-officio nonvoting board member.
33.18 No charter school employees shall serve on the board other than teachers under paragraph
33.19 (b).

33.20 (e) A contractor providing facilities, goods, or services to a charter school must not serve
33.21 on the board of directors. In addition, an individual is prohibited from serving as a member
33.22 of the charter school board of directors if: (1) the individual, an immediate family member,
33.23 or the individual's partner is a full or part owner or principal with a for-profit or nonprofit
33.24 entity or independent contractor with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly,
33.25 for professional services, goods, or facilities; or (2) an immediate family member is an
33.26 employee of the school. An individual may serve as a member of the board of directors if
33.27 no conflict of interest exists under this paragraph, consistent with this section.

33.28 (f) A violation of paragraph (e) renders a contract voidable at the option of the
33.29 commissioner or the charter school board of directors. A member of a charter school board
33.30 of directors who violates paragraph (e) is individually liable to the charter school for any
33.31 damage caused by the violation.

33.32 (g) Any employee, agent, contractor, or board member of the authorizer who participates
33.33 in initially reviewing, approving, overseeing, evaluating, renewing, or not renewing the

34.1 charter school is ineligible to serve on the board of directors of a school chartered by that
34.2 authorizer.

34.3 (h) An individual is prohibited from serving on more than one charter school board at
34.4 the same time in either an elected or ex-officio capacity, except that an individual serving
34.5 as an administrator serving more than one school under section 124E.12, subdivision 2,
34.6 paragraph (f), may serve on each board as an ex-officio member. A board member who
34.7 violates this paragraph is ineligible to continue to serve as a charter school board member
34.8 and is ineligible to be elected or appointed to a charter school board for 24 months.

34.9 (i) A board member, who is paid for serving on the charter school board, must not receive
34.10 more compensation for their role as a charter school board member than a school board
34.11 member in the school district in which the charter school is located.

34.12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.07, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

34.13 Subd. 5. **Board elections.** (a) Staff members employed at the school, including teachers
34.14 providing instruction under a contract with a cooperative, members of the board of directors,
34.15 and all parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in the school are the voters eligible
34.16 to elect the members of the school's board of directors.

34.17 (b) The board of directors must establish and publish election policies and procedures
34.18 on the school's website.

34.19 (c) The board of directors must notify eligible voters of the school board election dates
34.20 and voting procedures at least 30 calendar days before the election and post this information
34.21 on the school's website.

34.22 (d) The board of directors must notify eligible voters of the candidates' names,
34.23 biographies, and candidate statements at least ten calendar days before the election and post
34.24 this information on the school's website.

34.25 (e) Board elections must be held during the school year but may not be conducted on
34.26 days when school is closed.

34.27 (f) An initial member and an elected board member must file a written oath of office
34.28 with the charter school's authorizer.

34.29 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.07, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

34.30 Subd. 6. **Duties.** (a) The board of directors also shall decide and is responsible for all
34.31 decision making on policy matters related to operating the school, including budgeting,

35.1 curriculum programming, personnel, and operating procedures. The board must adopt
35.2 personnel evaluation policies and practices that, at a minimum:

35.3 (1) carry out the school's mission and goals;

35.4 (2) evaluate how charter contract goals and commitments are executed;

35.5 (3) evaluate student achievement, postsecondary and workforce readiness, and student
35.6 engagement and connection goals;

35.7 (4) establish a teacher evaluation process under section 124E.03, subdivision 2, paragraph
35.8 (h); and

35.9 (5) provide professional development related to the individual's job responsibilities.

35.10 (b) The board must adopt a nepotism policy that prohibits the employment of immediate
35.11 family members of a board member, a school employee, or a teacher who provides instruction
35.12 under a contract between the charter school and a cooperative. The board may waive this
35.13 policy if: (1) the position is publicly posted for 20 business days; and (2) a two-thirds
35.14 majority of the remaining board of directors who are not immediate family members of an
35.15 applicant vote to approve the hiring. A board member, school employee, or teacher under
35.16 contract with a cooperative must not be involved in an interview, selection process, hiring,
35.17 supervision, or evaluation of an employee who is an immediate family member.

35.18 (c) The board of directors must establish a finance committee that meets regularly and
35.19 includes at least one member of the school's board. The committee must review and provide
35.20 recommendations to the board on matters related to financial health and best practices,
35.21 which may include but are not limited to financial strategy, enrollment tracking, budgeting
35.22 and planning, internal controls and compliance, revenue generation, financial conflicts of
35.23 interest, audits and financial reporting, regular finance statements and transactions, and
35.24 authorizer finance related requirements in the charter contract.

35.25 (d) A charter school board that is under corrective action for financial reasons, as
35.26 determined by its authorizer, must:

35.27 (1) include the authorizer in regularly scheduled finance committee meetings, either in
35.28 person or virtually, at least monthly; and

35.29 (2) upon the request of the authorizer, hire a financial expert.

35.30 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.10, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

35.31 Subd. 4. **Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract.** (a) The
35.32 duration of the contract with an authorizer must be for the term contained in the contract

according to subdivision 1, paragraph (a). The authorizer may or may not renew a contract at the end of the term for any ground listed in paragraph (b). An authorizer may unilaterally terminate a contract during the term of the contract for any ground listed in paragraph (b). At least 60 business days before not renewing or terminating a contract, the authorizer shall notify the board of directors of the charter school of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall state the grounds for the proposed action in reasonable detail and describe the informal hearing process, consistent with this paragraph. The charter school's board of directors may request in writing an informal hearing before the authorizer within 15 business days after receiving notice of nonrenewal or termination of the contract. Failure by the board of directors to make a written request for an informal hearing within the 15-business-day period shall be treated as acquiescence to the proposed action. Upon receiving a timely written request for a hearing, the authorizer shall give ten business days' notice to the charter school's board of directors of the hearing date. The hearing must be live-streamed and recorded by audio recording, video recording, or a court reporter. The authorizer must preserve the recording for three years and make the recording available to the public. The authorizer shall conduct an informal hearing before taking final action. The authorizer shall take final action to renew or not renew a contract no later than 20 business days before the proposed date for terminating the contract or the end date of the contract.

(b) An authorizer may terminate or not renew a contract upon any of the following grounds:

(1) failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic achievement for all students, including the requirements for pupil performance contained in the contract;

(2) failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;

(3) violations of law; or

(4) other good cause shown.

If the authorizer terminates or does not renew a contract under this paragraph, the school must be dissolved according to the applicable provisions of chapter 317A.

(c) The commissioner, after providing reasonable notice to the board of directors of a charter school and the existing authorizer, and after providing an opportunity for a public hearing, may terminate the existing contract between the authorizer and the charter school board if the charter school has a history of:

(1) failure to meet pupil performance requirements, consistent with state law;

37.1 (2) financial mismanagement or failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal
37.2 management; or

37.3 (3) repeated or major violations of the law.

37.4 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.13, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

37.5 Subd. 3. **Affiliated nonprofit building corporation.** (a) An affiliated nonprofit building
37.6 corporation may purchase, expand, or renovate an existing facility to serve as a school or
37.7 may construct a new school facility. One charter school may organize an affiliated nonprofit
37.8 building corporation that serves only that charter school if the charter school:

37.9 (1) has operated for at least six consecutive years;

37.10 (2) as of June 30, has a net positive unreserved general fund balance in the preceding
37.11 three fiscal years;

37.12 (3) has long-range strategic and financial plans that include enrollment projections for
37.13 at least five years;

37.14 (4) completes a feasibility study of facility options that outlines the benefits and costs
37.15 of each option; and

37.16 (5) has a plan that describes project parameters and budget.

37.17 (b) An affiliated nonprofit building corporation under this subdivision must:

37.18 (1) be incorporated under chapter 317A;

37.19 (2) comply with applicable Internal Revenue Service regulations, including regulations
37.20 for "supporting organizations" as defined by the Internal Revenue Service;

37.21 (3) post on the school website the name, mailing address, bylaws, minutes of board
37.22 meetings, and names of the current board of directors of the affiliated nonprofit building
37.23 corporation;

37.24 (4) submit to the commissioner a copy of its annual audit by December 31 of each year;
37.25 and

37.26 (5) comply with government data practices law under chapter 13.

37.27 (c) An affiliated nonprofit building corporation must not serve as the leasing agent for
37.28 property or facilities it does not own. A charter school that leases a facility from an affiliated
37.29 nonprofit building corporation that does not own the leased facility is ineligible to receive
37.30 charter school lease aid. The state is immune from liability resulting from a contract between
37.31 a charter school and an affiliated nonprofit building corporation.

(d) The board of directors of the charter school must ensure the affiliated nonprofit building corporation complies with all applicable legal requirements. The charter school's authorizer must oversee the efforts of the board of directors of the charter school to ensure legal compliance of the affiliated building corporation. A school's board of directors that fails to ensure the affiliated nonprofit building corporation's compliance violates its responsibilities and an authorizer must consider that failure when evaluating the charter school.

(e) A contractor providing facilities, goods, or services to a charter school must not serve on the board of directors of the charter school's affiliated building corporation. In addition, an individual is prohibited from serving as a member of the board of directors of a charter school's affiliated building corporation if the individual, an immediate family member, or the individual's partner is a full or part owner or principal with a for-profit or nonprofit entity or independent contractor with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities. A charter school employee or immediate family member of that employee may serve on the board of directors of the charter school's affiliated building corporation if the employee has no conflict of interest, as defined in section 471.87.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.16, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Audit report.** (a) A charter school is subject to the same financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as a district, except as required under this subdivision. Audits must be conducted in compliance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards, the federal Single Audit Act, if applicable, and section 6.65 governing auditing procedures. The audit must comply with the requirements of sections 123B.75 to 123B.83 governing school district finance, except when the commissioner and authorizer approve a deviation made necessary because of school program finances. The commissioner, state auditor, legislative auditor, or authorizer may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits. A charter school in statutory operating debt under sections 123B.81 to 123B.83 must submit a plan under section 123B.81, subdivision 4.

(b) The charter school must submit an audit report, including all supplemental information included with the audit, to the commissioner and its authorizer annually by December 31.

(c) The charter school, with the assistance of the auditor conducting the audit, must include with the report, as supplemental information: (1) a copy of ~~a new~~ any management agreement ~~or an amendment to a current agreement~~ with a CMO or EMO ~~signed during the audit year~~; and (2) a copy of a service agreement or contract with a company or individual

39.1 totaling over five percent of the audited expenditures for the most recent audit year. The
39.2 agreements must detail the terms of the agreement, including the services provided and the
39.3 annual costs for those services.

39.4 (d) A charter school independent audit report shall include audited financial data of an
39.5 affiliated building corporation under section 124E.13, subdivision 3, or other component
39.6 unit.

39.7 (e) If the audit report finds that a material weakness exists in the financial reporting
39.8 systems of a charter school, the charter school must submit a written report to the
39.9 commissioner explaining how the charter school will resolve that material weakness. An
39.10 auditor, as a condition of providing financial services to a charter school, must agree to
39.11 make available information about a charter school's financial audit to the commissioner and
39.12 authorizer upon request.

39.13 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.16, is amended by adding a subdivision
39.14 to read:

39.15 Subd. 4. **Authorizer performance evaluation report.** (a) A charter school must publish
39.16 on its website the formal written performance evaluation from its authorizer and disseminate
39.17 the evaluation to enrolled families in languages they understand, consistent with the school's
39.18 language access plan under section 124E.03, subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

39.19 (b) Evaluations must be published on the charter school's website within 15 business
39.20 days of receipt of the evaluation by the charter school and for at least 365 days from the
39.21 date of publication.

39.22 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.17, is amended to read:

39.23 **124E.17 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**

39.24 Subdivision 1. **Charter school information.** (a) Charter schools must disseminate
39.25 information about the school's offerings and enrollment procedures to families that reflect
39.26 the diversity of Minnesota's population and targeted groups. Targeted groups include
39.27 low-income families and communities, students of color, students at risk of academic failure,
39.28 and students underrepresented in the school's student body relative to Minnesota's population.
39.29 The school must document its dissemination activities in the school's annual report. The
39.30 school's dissemination activities must be a component of the authorizer's performance review
39.31 of the school.

(b) Authorizers and the commissioner must disseminate information to the public on how to form and operate a charter school. Authorizers, operators, and the commissioner also may disseminate information to interested stakeholders about the successful best practices in teaching and learning demonstrated by charter schools.

(c) For each charter school it authorizes, an authorizer must publish on its website for at least five years from the date of issuance all charter contracts and amendments executed under section 124E.10; school performance reviews including the performance evaluations required by section 124E.10, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (6), if different; notices of intent to terminate or not renew the charter contract and related final determinations; and unresolved notices of intervention, deficiency, concern, corrective action, or probationary status.

(d) Each charter school must post a link in a conspicuous place on the school's official website to the section of its authorizer's website where information listed in paragraph (c) specific to that school is published. A charter school must also, upon the request of the authorizer, distribute information from their authorizer about interventions, corrective actions, and probationary status by publication, mail, or electronic means to its authorizer, school employees, and parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the charter school.

Subd. 2. **Financial information.** (a) Upon request of an individual, the charter school must make available in a timely fashion financial statements showing all operations and transactions affecting the school's income, surplus, and deficit during the last annual accounting period; and a balance sheet summarizing assets and liabilities on the closing date of the accounting period.

~~(b) Upon request of an individual, an authorizer must make available in a timely fashion financial statements showing all operations and transactions affecting the authorizer's income, surplus, and deficit during the last annual accounting period, and a balance sheet summarizing assets and liabilities on the closing date of the accounting period.~~ An authorizer must publish on its website an annual financial statement identifying its sources of income related to authorizing activities and its authorizing expenses including staff, consultants, facility, professional development, transportation, membership dues, technology, office supplies, bank fees, administrative overhead, and professional fees for accounting, legal, and financial services, consistent with section 124E.05, subdivision 8, and a balance sheet related to authorizing activities summarizing assets and liabilities.

41.1 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.26, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

41.2 Subd. 4. **Required policy components.** A charter school procurement policy must at a
41.3 minimum include:

41.4 (1) conflict of interest provisions consistent with section 124E.14;

41.5 (2) thresholds for purchases by employees without board approval;

41.6 (3) thresholds for purchases that require competitive ~~bidding~~ procurement processes as
41.7 defined in section 124E.02, paragraph (e), except that a competitive ~~bidding~~ procurement
41.8 process must occur for any procurement estimated to exceed \$25,000; and

41.9 (4) a prohibition on breaking up a procurement into smaller components to avoid the
41.10 thresholds established in clauses (2) and (3).

41.11 Notwithstanding clause (3), for a procurement estimated to exceed \$25,000 but not \$175,000,
41.12 the purchase may be made either by a competitive procurement process, or by direct
41.13 negotiation, by obtaining two or more bids or proposals for the purchase or sale when
41.14 possible and without advertising for bids or proposals or otherwise complying with the
41.15 requirements of a competitive procurement process. If a procurement is estimated to exceed
41.16 \$175,000, a competitive procurement process must occur.

41.17 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.26, is amended by adding a subdivision
41.18 to read:

41.19 Subd. 4a. **Competitive procurement.** (a) "Procurement by sealed bids" means a process
41.20 in which bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed price contract by lump sum or unit price
41.21 is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all material terms and
41.22 conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price. If sealed bids are used, the
41.23 following requirements apply:

41.24 (1) bids must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources, providing
41.25 bidders sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening bids;

41.26 (2) the invitation for bids, which includes any specifications and pertinent attachments,
41.27 must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

41.28 (3) all bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and
41.29 the bids must be opened publicly;

41.30 (4) a firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive
41.31 and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts,
41.32 transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is

- 42.1 lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience
 42.2 indicates that the discounts are usually taken advantage of;
 42.3 (5) any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason; and
 42.4 (6) in order for a sealed bid to be feasible, the following conditions must be present:
 42.5 (i) a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
 42.6 (ii) two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the
 42.7 business; and
 42.8 (iii) the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the
 42.9 successful bidder can be made principally on the price.
 42.10 (b) "Procurement by proposals" means a process in which either a fixed price or
 42.11 cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Proposals are generally used when conditions
 42.12 are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. They are awarded in accordance with the
 42.13 following requirements:
 42.14 (1) requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their
 42.15 relative importance. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified
 42.16 offerors. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the
 42.17 maximum extent practical;
 42.18 (2) the charter school must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations
 42.19 of the proposals received and for making selections; and
 42.20 (3) contracts must be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most
 42.21 advantageous to the charter school, with price and other factors considered.

42.22 Sec. 19. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

42.23 The revisor of statutes shall renumber the section of Minnesota Statutes listed in column
 42.24 A with the number listed in column B. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference
 42.25 changes consistent with the renumbering. The revisor shall also make any technical and
 42.26 other changes necessitated by the renumbering and cross-reference changes in this act.

42.27	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
42.28	<u>124E.16, subdivision 3</u>	<u>124E.27</u>

ARTICLE 4

EDUCATION INNOVATION

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.085, is amended to read:

124D.085 EXPERIENTIAL AND APPLIED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.

(a) To strengthen the alignment between career and college ready curriculum and state and local academic standards and increase students' opportunities for participating in applied and experiential learning in a nontraditional setting, school districts are encouraged to provide programs such as:

(1) magnet schools;

(2) language immersion programs;

(3) project-based learning;

(4) accelerated learning;

(5) college prep schools;

(6) career and technical education;

(7) Montessori schools;

(8) military schools;

(9) work-based schools; and

(10) place-based learning.

(b) Districts may provide such programs independently or in cooperation with other districts, at a school single site, for particular grades, or throughout the district. In addition to meeting the other accountability measures under chapter 120B, districts may declare that a student meets or exceeds specific academic standards required for graduation under the rigorous course of study waiver in section 120B.021, subdivision 1a, where appropriate.

~~(b)~~ (c) The board of a district that chooses to participate must publicly adopt and review a plan for providing a program under this section. The plan must: define the program and its structure; describe the enrollment process; identify measures and processes for regularly assessing, evaluating, and publicly reporting on program efficacy and use summary data to show student progress and outcomes; and establish a data-informed public process for modifying and revising the plan as needed. A district must publish its plan contents and evaluation outcomes on the district website.

44.1 ~~(e)~~ (d) For purposes of further integrating experiential and applied learning into career
44.2 and college ready curricula, the commissioner may request program information from
44.3 providing districts under this section, but is not authorized to approve or deny any school
44.4 board-adopted program provided under this section.

44.5 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.093, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

44.6 Subd. 3. **Application Board approval process.** ~~The commissioner must determine the~~
44.7 ~~form and manner of application for a school to be designated a P-TECH school. The~~
44.8 ~~application~~ school board plan for adopting a P-TECH program must contain at least the
44.9 following information:

44.10 (1) the written agreement between a public school, a higher education institution under
44.11 section 124D.09, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), and a business partner to jointly develop and
44.12 support a P-TECH school;

44.13 (2) a proposed school design consistent with subdivisions 1 and 2;

44.14 (3) a description of how the P-TECH school supports the needs of the economic
44.15 development region in which the P-TECH school is to be located;

44.16 (4) a description of the facilities to be used by the P-TECH school;

44.17 (5) a description of proposed budgets, curriculum, transportation plans, and other
44.18 operating procedures for the P-TECH school;

44.19 (6) the process by which students will be enrolled in the P-TECH school;

44.20 (7) the qualifications required for individuals employed in the P-TECH school; and

44.21 (8) any additional information that the ~~commissioner requires~~ board determines is
44.22 appropriate.

44.23 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.093, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

44.24 Subd. 4. **Approval Grant process.** (a) When an appropriation is available, the
44.25 commissioner of education must appoint an advisory committee to review the grant
44.26 applications and to recommend approval for those applications that meet the requirements
44.27 of this section. The commissioner of education has final authority over grant application
44.28 approvals.

44.29 (b) To the extent practicable, the commissioner must ensure an equitable geographic
44.30 distribution of grants for approved P-TECH schools.

45.1 (c) Nothing in this subdivision may be construed to authorize the commissioner to
45.2 approve or deny a locally adopted P-TECH plan.

45.3 Sec. 4. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

45.4 (a) The revisor of statutes shall renumber the provisions of Minnesota Statutes and laws
45.5 listed in column A to the references listed in column B. The revisor shall also make necessary
45.6 cross-reference changes in Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules consistent with the
45.7 renumbering in this instruction.

45.8	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
45.9	<u>Laws 2017, First Special Session</u>	<u>124F.01</u>
45.10	<u>chapter 5, article 2, section 52</u>	
45.11	<u>124D.085</u>	<u>124F.02</u>
45.12	<u>124D.093</u>	<u>124F.03</u>
45.13	<u>124D.4535</u>	<u>124F.04</u>
45.14	<u>124D.46</u>	<u>124F.05</u>
45.15	<u>124D.47</u>	<u>124F.06</u>
45.16	<u>124D.48</u>	<u>124F.07</u>
45.17	<u>124D.49</u>	<u>124F.08</u>
45.18	<u>124D.50</u>	<u>124F.09</u>

45.19 (b) Paragraph (a) is intended to be a reorganization of statutes relating to Education
45.20 Innovation in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 124F, and not intended to change the meaning
45.21 or prior interpretation of those laws.

45.22 **ARTICLE 5**

45.23 **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

45.24 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.32, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

45.25 Subdivision 1. **Language access plan required.** Starting in the 2025-2026 school year,
45.26 during a regularly scheduled public board hearing, a school board must adopt a language
45.27 access plan that specifies the district's process and procedures to render effective language
45.28 assistance to students and adults who communicate in a language other than English or
45.29 require additional assistance due to a disability. The language access plan must be available
45.30 to the public and included in the school's handbook.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.32, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Plan requirements.** The language access plan must include how the district and its schools will use trained or certified spoken language interpreters for communication related to academic outcomes, progress, determinations, and placement of students in specialized programs and services, such as special education and related individualized education programs under section 125A.08; and ensure meaningful participation in the individualized education program process by families where the family speaks a language other than English or has a disability themselves; how families and communities will be notified of their rights under this plan; and a process to appeal the accommodations of the access plan if needs are not met.

Sec. 3. **[125A.092] STATE COMPLAINT PROCESS.**

Subdivision 1. Filing a state complaint. (a) An organization or individual may file a signed, written complaint with the Department of Education, Office of General Counsel, Dispute Resolution.

(b) The complaint must include:

(1) a statement that a public agency, lead agency, or early intervention services provider has violated a requirement of Part B or Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

(2) the facts on which the statement is based;

(3) the signature and contact information for the complainant;

(4) if alleging violations with respect to a specific child:

(i) the name and address of the residence of the child;

(ii) the name of the school the child is attending, or the name of the early intervention services provider serving the child; and

(iii) in the case of a homeless child or youth within the meaning of section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434(a)(2), the available contact information for the child and the name of the school the child is attending;

(5) a description of the nature of the problem of the child, including facts relating to the problem; and

47.1 (6) a proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to the party
47.2 at the time the complaint is filed.

47.3 (c) The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one year prior to
47.4 the date that the complaint is received.

47.5 (d) The party filing the complaint must forward a copy of the complaint to the local
47.6 educational agency, public agency, or early intervention services provider serving the child
47.7 at the same time the party files the complaint with the Department of Education.

47.8 Subd. 2. Remedies. In resolving a complaint in which the Department of Education has
47.9 found a failure to provide appropriate services, the Department of Education, pursuant to
47.10 its general supervisory authority under Part B and Part C of the federal Individuals with
47.11 Disabilities Education Act, must address:

47.12 (1) the failure to provide appropriate services, including corrective action appropriate
47.13 to address the needs of the child, compensatory services, or monetary reimbursement; and

47.14 (2) appropriate future provision of services for all children with disabilities.

47.15 Subd. 3. Time limit and procedures. (a) Within 60 days after a complaint is filed, the
47.16 Department of Education must:

47.17 (1) carry out an independent on-site investigation if the Department of Education
47.18 determines that an investigation is necessary;

47.19 (2) give the complainant the opportunity to submit additional information, either orally
47.20 or in writing, about the allegations in the complaint;

47.21 (3) provide the public agency, lead agency, or early intervention services provider with
47.22 the opportunity to respond to the complaint, including at a minimum:

47.23 (i) at the discretion of the Department of Education, a proposal to resolve the complaint;
47.24 and

47.25 (ii) an opportunity for a parent who has filed a complaint and the public agency, lead
47.26 agency, or early intervention services provider to voluntarily engage in mediation consistent
47.27 with section 125A.091, subdivision 9;

47.28 (4) review all relevant information and make an independent determination as to whether
47.29 the public agency, lead agency, or early intervention services provider is violating a
47.30 requirement of Part B or Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
47.31 and

(5) issue a written decision to the complainant that addresses each allegation in the complaint and contains:

(i) findings of fact and conclusions; and

(ii) the reasons for the Department of Education's final decision.

(b) An extension of the time limit is allowed only if:

(1) exceptional circumstances exist with respect to a particular complaint; or

(2) the parent, individual, or organization and the local educational agency, public agency, or early intervention services provider involved agree to extend the time to engage in mediation pursuant to section 125A.091, subdivision 9, or a facilitated team meeting pursuant to section 125A.091, subdivision 11.

Subd. 4. **Complaints and due process hearings.** (a) If a written complaint is received that is also the subject of a due process hearing under section 125A.091, subdivision 12, or that contains multiple issues of which one or more are part of that hearing, the Department of Education must set aside any part of the complaint that is being addressed in the due process hearing until the conclusion of the hearing. Any issue in the complaint that is not a part of the due process action must be resolved using the time limit and procedures described in paragraphs (c) and (d).

(b) If an issue raised in a complaint filed under this section has previously been decided in a due process hearing involving the same parties:

(1) the due process hearing decision is binding on that issue; and

(2) the Department of Education must inform the complainant to that effect.

(c) If the local educational agency, public agency, or early intervention services provider fails to implement the due process hearing decision, an individual or organization may file a state complaint with the Department of Education alleging the agency or provider's failure to implement the due process hearing decision.

ARTICLE 6

SCHOOL NUTRITION

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.119, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Summer Food Service Program locations.** Consistent with Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, ~~section 225.6(d)(1)(ii)~~ part 225, the Department of Education must not approve a new Summer Food Service Program open site that is within a half-mile radius of

49.1 an existing Summer Food Service Program open site. The department may approve a new
49.2 Summer Food Service Program open site within a half-mile radius only if the new program
49.3 will not be serving the same group of children for the same meal type or if there are safety
49.4 issues that could present barriers to participation.

49.5 ARTICLE 7

49.6 STATE AGENCIES

49.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 13.32, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

49.8 Subd. 5. **Directory information.** (a) Educational data designated as directory information
49.9 is public data on individuals to the extent required under federal law. Directory information
49.10 must be designated pursuant to the provisions of:

49.11 (1) this subdivision; and

49.12 (2) United States Code, title 20, section 1232g, and Code of Federal Regulations, title
49.13 34, section 99.37, which were in effect on January 3, 2012.

49.14 (b) When conducting the directory information designation and notice process required
49.15 by federal law, an educational agency or institution shall give parents and students notice
49.16 of the right to refuse to let the agency or institution designate specified data about the student
49.17 as directory information. This notice may be given by any means reasonably likely to inform
49.18 the parents and students of the right.

49.19 (c) An educational agency or institution may not designate a student's home address,
49.20 telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as directory
49.21 information under this subdivision. This paragraph does not apply to a postsecondary
49.22 institution.

49.23 (d) When requested, educational agencies or institutions must share personal student
49.24 contact information and directory information, whether public or private, with the Minnesota
49.25 Department of Education, as required for federal reporting purposes.

49.26 (e) When requested, and in accordance with requirements for parental consent in the
49.27 Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 300.622 (b)(2), and part 99, educational
49.28 agencies or institutions may share personal student contact information and directory
49.29 information for students served in special education with postsecondary transition planning
49.30 and services under section 125A.08, paragraph (b), clause (1), whether public or private,
49.31 with the Department of Employment and Economic Development, as required for

50.1 coordination of services to students with disabilities under sections 125A.08, paragraph (b),
50.2 clause (1); 125A.023; and 125A.027.

50.3 Sec. 2. [13.3211] DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
50.4 GENERAL; INVESTIGATIVE DATA.

50.5 (a) Data on persons that are collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the
50.6 Department of Education in an investigation conducted under section 127A.21 are
50.7 confidential data on individuals pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, or protected
50.8 nonpublic data on an individual pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 13, and shall not be
50.9 disclosed except:

50.10 (1) pursuant to section 13.05;

50.11 (2) pursuant to statute or valid court order;

50.12 (3) to a party named in a civil or criminal proceeding for preparation of a defense;

50.13 (4) to an investigator acting on behalf of a county, state, or federal government, including
50.14 a law enforcement officer or attorney in the investigation or prosecution of a criminal, civil,
50.15 or administrative proceeding, unless the inspector general determines that disclosure may
50.16 compromise an investigation; or

50.17 (5) to provide notices required or permitted by statute.

50.18 (b) The data referred to in this section shall be classified as public data upon submission
50.19 to a court in a civil or criminal proceeding, or when the investigation is no longer being
50.20 pursued actively, except that the data shall be disclosed as required to comply with section
50.21 6.67 or 609.456, unless chapter 13 provides otherwise.

50.22 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the existence of an investigation conducted by the
50.23 Office of the Inspector General or withholding of payment by the commissioner may be
50.24 disclosed if the commissioner, after consulting with the inspector general, determines that
50.25 it will not compromise the investigation.

50.26 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 13.82, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

50.27 Subdivision 1. **Application.** This section shall apply to agencies which carry on a law
50.28 enforcement function, including but not limited to municipal police departments, county
50.29 sheriff departments, fire departments, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Minnesota
50.30 State Patrol, the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Department of
50.31 Commerce, the Office of the Inspector General within the Department of Education, and

51.1 county human service agency client and provider fraud investigation, prevention, and control
51.2 units operated or supervised by the Department of Human Services.

51.3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.021, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

51.4 Subd. 3. **Rulemaking.** (a) The commissioner, consistent with the requirements of this
51.5 section and section 120B.022, must adopt statewide rules under ~~section 14.389~~ chapter 14
51.6 for implementing statewide rigorous core academic standards in language arts, mathematics,
51.7 science, social studies, physical education, and the arts.

51.8 (b) The commissioner must adopt statewide rules for implementing statewide rigorous
51.9 core academic standards in health.

51.10 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.70, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

51.11 Subd. 6. **Report.** By September 30 of each year after receiving a grant, recipients must
51.12 submit a report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board on program
51.13 efforts that describes mentoring and induction activities and assesses the impact of these
51.14 programs on teacher effectiveness and retention. The board must publish a summary report
51.15 for the public and submit the report to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction
51.16 over kindergarten through grade 12 education policy and finance in accordance with section
51.17 3.302 by November 30 of each even-numbered year.

51.18 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

51.19 Subdivision 1. **Establishment of Office of the Inspector General; powers; duties.** The
51.20 commissioner must establish within the department an Office of the Inspector General. The
51.21 inspector general shall report directly to the commissioner. The Office of the Inspector
51.22 General is charged with protecting the integrity of the department and the state by detecting
51.23 and preventing fraud, theft, waste, and abuse in department programs. The Office of the
51.24 Inspector General must conduct independent and objective investigations to promote the
51.25 integrity of the department's programs and operations. When fraud, theft, or other misuse
51.26 of public funds is detected, the Office of the Inspector General must report it to the
51.27 appropriate law enforcement entity and collaborate and cooperate with law enforcement to
51.28 assist in the investigation and any subsequent civil and criminal prosecution.

51.29 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

51.30 Subd. 1a. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
51.31 meanings given.

52.1 (b) "Abuse" means actions that may, directly or indirectly, result in unnecessary costs
52.2 to department programs. Abuse may involve paying for items or services when there is no
52.3 legal entitlement to that payment, or behavior that is deficient or improper when compared
52.4 with behavior that a prudent person would consider a reasonable and necessary business
52.5 practice given the facts and circumstances.

52.6 (c) "Department program" means a program funded by the Department of Education
52.7 that involves the transfer or disbursement of public funds or other resources to a program
52.8 participant. "Department program" includes state and federal aids or grants received by a
52.9 school district or charter school or other program participant.

52.10 (d) "Excluded" means removed by any means from a program administered by a
52.11 Minnesota state agency or federal agency.

52.12 ~~(d)~~ (e) "Fraud" means an intentional or deliberate act to deprive another of property or
52.13 money or to acquire property or money by deception or other unfair means. Fraud includes
52.14 intentionally submitting false information to the department for the purpose of either
52.15 obtaining a greater compensation or benefit than that to which the person program participant
52.16 is legally entitled or hiding the misuse of funds. ~~Fraud also includes failure to correct errors~~
52.17 ~~in the maintenance of records in a timely manner after a request by the department. Fraud~~
52.18 also includes acts that constitute a crime against any program, or attempts or conspiracies
52.19 to commit those crimes, including but not limited to the following:

52.20 (1) theft in violation of section 609.52;

52.21 (2) perjury in violation of section 609.48; and

52.22 (3) aggravated forgery and forgery in violation of sections 609.625 and 609.63.

52.23 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Investigation" means an audit, investigation, proceeding, or inquiry by the Office
52.24 of the Inspector General related to a program participant in a department program.

52.25 ~~(f)~~ (g) "Program participant" means any entity or person, including associated entities
52.26 or persons, that receives, disburses, or has custody of funds or other resources transferred
52.27 or disbursed under a department program. Associated persons or entities include but are not
52.28 limited to vendors or other entities or persons that contract with recipients of department
52.29 program funds.

52.30 (h) "Theft" means the act defined in section 609.52, subdivision 2.

52.31 ~~(g)~~ (i) "Waste" means practices that, directly or indirectly, result in unnecessary costs
52.32 to department programs, such as misusing resources. Waste includes an attempt or act using
52.33 or expending resources carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose.

53.1 ~~(h)~~ (j) For purposes of this section, neither "fraud," "theft," "waste," nor "abuse" includes
53.2 decisions on instruction, curriculum, personnel, or other discretionary policy decisions made
53.3 by a school district, charter school, cooperative unit as defined by section 123A.24,
53.4 subdivision 2, or any library, library system, or library district defined in section 134.001.

53.5 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

53.6 Subd. 4. **Access to records.** (a) For purposes of an investigation, and regardless of the
53.7 data's classification under chapter 13, the Office of the Inspector General shall have access
53.8 to all relevant books, accounts, documents, data, and property related to department programs
53.9 that are maintained by a program participant, charter school, or government entity as defined
53.10 by section 13.02.

53.11 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the Office of the Inspector General must issue a
53.12 subpoena under subdivision 3 in order to access routing and account numbers to which
53.13 Department of Education funds have been disbursed.

53.14 (c) Records requested by the Office of the Inspector General under this subdivision shall
53.15 be provided in a format, place, and time frame reasonably requested by the Office of the
53.16 Inspector General.

53.17 (d) The department may enter into specific agreements with other state agencies related
53.18 to records requests by the Office of the Inspector General.

53.19 (e) In an investigation, program participants must give the Office of the Inspector General
53.20 immediate access without prior notice to any locations of potential record storage and the
53.21 records themselves, whether physical or electronic, during regular business hours, and to
53.22 any records related to a department program. Denying the Office of the Inspector General
53.23 access to requested records is cause for immediate suspension of payment.

53.24 (f) The Office of the Inspector General, at its own expense, may photocopy or otherwise
53.25 duplicate any record related to a department program. Photocopying or electronic duplication
53.26 shall be done on the program participant's premises when immediate access is requested,
53.27 unless removal is specifically permitted by the program participant. If requested, a program
53.28 participant must help the Office of the Inspector General duplicate any department program
53.29 record or other records related to a department program's operation, including hard copies
53.30 or electronically stored data, on the day when access is requested.

54.1 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, subdivision 5, as amended by Laws
54.2 2025, chapter 20, section 101, is amended to read:

54.3 Subd. 5. **Sanctions; appeal.** (a) This subdivision does not authorize any sanction that
54.4 reduces, pauses, or otherwise interrupts state or federal aid to a school district, charter school,
54.5 cooperative unit as defined by section 123A.24, subdivision 2, or any library, library system,
54.6 or library district defined in section 134.001.

54.7 (b) The inspector general may recommend that the commissioner impose appropriate
54.8 temporary sanctions, including withholding of payments under the department program, on
54.9 a program participant pending an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General if:

54.10 (1) during the course of an investigation, the Office of the Inspector General finds credible
54.11 indicia of fraud, waste, or abuse by the program participant;

54.12 (2) there has been a criminal, civil, or administrative adjudication of fraud, theft, waste,
54.13 or abuse against the program participant in Minnesota or in another state or jurisdiction;

54.14 (3) the program participant was receiving funds under any contract or registered in any
54.15 program administered by another Minnesota state agency, a government agency in another
54.16 state, or a federal agency, and was excluded from that contract or program for reasons
54.17 credibly indicating fraud, waste, or abuse by the program participant; or

54.18 (4) the program participant has a pattern of noncompliance with an investigation.

54.19 (c) If an investigation finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, fraud, theft, waste, or
54.20 abuse by a program participant, the inspector general may, after reviewing all facts and
54.21 evidence and when acting judiciously on a case-by-case basis, recommend that the
54.22 commissioner impose appropriate sanctions on the program participant.

54.23 (d) Unless prohibited by law, the commissioner has the authority to implement
54.24 recommendations by the inspector general, including imposing appropriate sanctions,
54.25 temporarily or otherwise, on a program participant. Sanctions may include ending program
54.26 participation, stopping disbursement of funds or resources, monetary recovery, and
54.27 termination of department contracts with the participant for any current or future department
54.28 program or contract. A sanction may be imposed for up to the longest period permitted by
54.29 state or federal law. Sanctions authorized under this subdivision are in addition to other
54.30 remedies and penalties available under law.

54.31 (e) If the commissioner imposes sanctions on a program participant under this subdivision,
54.32 the commissioner must notify the participant in writing within seven business days of
54.33 imposing the sanction, unless requested in writing by a law enforcement agency to

55.1 temporarily delay issuing the notice to prevent disruption of an ongoing law enforcement
55.2 agency investigation. A notice of sanction must state:

55.3 (1) the sanction being imposed;

55.4 (2) the general allegations that form the basis for the sanction;

55.5 (3) the duration of the sanction;

55.6 (4) the department programs to which the sanction applies; and

55.7 (5) how the program participant may appeal the sanction pursuant to paragraph (f).

55.8 (f) A program participant sanctioned under this subdivision may, within 30 days after
55.9 the date the notice of sanction was mailed to the participant, appeal the determination by
55.10 requesting in writing that the commissioner initiate a contested case proceeding under
55.11 chapter 14. The scope of any contested case hearing is limited to the sanction imposed under
55.12 this subdivision. An appeal request must specify with particularity each disputed item, the
55.13 reason for the dispute, and must include the name and contact information of the person or
55.14 entity that may be contacted regarding the appeal.

55.15 (g) The commissioner shall lift sanctions imposed under this subdivision if the Office
55.16 of the Inspector General determines there is insufficient evidence of fraud, theft, waste, or
55.17 abuse by the program participant. The commissioner must notify the participant in writing
55.18 within seven business days of lifting the sanction.

55.19 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

55.20 Subd. 6. **Data practices.** (a) It is not a violation of rights conferred by chapter 13 or any
55.21 other statute related to the confidentiality of government data for a government entity as
55.22 defined in section 13.02 to provide data or information under this section.

55.23 (b) The inspector general is subject to the Government Data Practices Act, chapter 13,
55.24 and shall protect from unlawful disclosure data classified as not public. Data collected,
55.25 created, received, or maintained by the inspector general relating to an ~~audit~~, investigation,
55.26 proceeding, or inquiry are subject to ~~section 13.39~~ sections 13.3211 and 13.82.

55.27 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, is amended by adding a subdivision
55.28 to read:

55.29 Subd. 8. **Immunity and confidentiality.** (a) A person who makes a good faith report
55.30 is immune from any civil liability that might otherwise arise from reporting or participating
55.31 in the investigation. Nothing in this subdivision affects an individual's or entity's

56.1 responsibility for any monetary recovery under existing law or contractual obligation when
56.2 receiving public funds.

56.3 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "person" means a natural person.

56.4 (c) After an investigation is complete, the reporter's name and any identifying information
56.5 must be kept confidential. The subject of the report may compel disclosure of the reporter's
56.6 name only with the consent of the reporter or upon a written finding by a district court that
56.7 the report was false and there is evidence that the report was made in bad faith. This
56.8 subdivision does not alter disclosure responsibilities or obligations under the Rules of
56.9 Criminal Procedure, except that when the identity of the reporter is relevant to a criminal
56.10 prosecution the district court shall conduct an in-camera review before determining whether
56.11 to order disclosure of the reporter's identity.

56.12 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, is amended by adding a subdivision
56.13 to read:

56.14 Subd. 9. **Limits on receiving public funds; prohibition.** (a) This subdivision does not
56.15 authorize any action that reduces, pauses, or otherwise interrupts state or federal aid to a
56.16 school district, charter school, cooperative unit as defined in section 123A.24, subdivision
56.17 2, or any library, library system, or library district defined in section 134.001.

56.18 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "program participant" includes individuals or persons
56.19 who have an ownership interest in, control of, or the ability to control a program participant
56.20 in a department program.

56.21 (c) If a program participant is excluded from a department program, the inspector general
56.22 shall notify the commissioner, who shall:

56.23 (1) prohibit the excluded program participant from enrolling in, receiving grant money
56.24 from, or registering in any other program administered by the commissioner; and

56.25 (2) disenroll or disqualify the excluded program participant from any other program
56.26 administered by the commissioner.

56.27 (d) If a program participant enrolled, licensed, or receiving funds under any contract or
56.28 program administered by a Minnesota state agency or federal agency is excluded from that
56.29 program, the inspector general shall notify the commissioner, who may:

56.30 (1) prohibit the excluded program participant from enrolling in, becoming licensed,
56.31 receiving grant money from, or registering in any other program administered by the
56.32 commissioner; and

57.1 (2) disenroll or disqualify the excluded program participant from any other program
57.2 administered by the commissioner.

57.3 (e) The duration of a prohibition, disenrollment, revocation, suspension, or
57.4 disqualification under paragraph (c) must last for the longest applicable sanction or
57.5 disqualifying period in effect for the program participant permitted by state or federal law.
57.6 The duration of a prohibition, disenrollment, revocation, suspension, or disqualification
57.7 under paragraph (d) may last up until the longest applicable sanction or disqualifying period
57.8 in effect for the program participant as permitted by state or federal law.

57.9 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, is amended by adding a subdivision
57.10 to read:

57.11 Subd. 10. **Notice.** Within five days of taking an action against a program participant
57.12 under subdivision 9, paragraph (c) or (d), the commissioner must send notice of the action
57.13 to the program participant. The notice must state:

57.14 (1) the basis for the action;

57.15 (2) the effective date of the action;

57.16 (3) the right to appeal the action; and

57.17 (4) the requirements and procedures for reinstatement.

57.18 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, is amended by adding a subdivision
57.19 to read:

57.20 Subd. 11. **Appeal.** (a) Upon receipt of a notice under subdivision 10, a program
57.21 participant may request a contested case hearing, as defined in section 14.02, subdivision
57.22 3, by filing with the commissioner a written request of appeal. The appeal request must be
57.23 received by the commissioner no later than 30 days after the date the notification was mailed
57.24 to the program participant.

57.25 (b) The appeal request must specify: (1) each disputed item and the reason for the dispute;
57.26 (2) the authority in statute or rule upon which the program participant relies for each disputed
57.27 item; (3) the name and address of the person or entity with whom contacts may be made
57.28 regarding the appeal; and (4) other information required by the commissioner.

57.29 (c) Unless timely and proper appeal is received by the commissioner, the action of the
57.30 commissioner shall be considered final and binding on the effective date of the action as
57.31 stated in the notice under subdivision 10, clause (2).

58.1 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.21, is amended by adding a subdivision
58.2 to read:

58.3 Subd. 12. **Withholding of payments.** (a) This subdivision does not authorize withholding
58.4 of payments that reduces, pauses, or otherwise interrupts state or federal aid to a school
58.5 district, charter school, cooperative unit as defined in section 123A.24, subdivision 2, or
58.6 any library, library system, or library district defined in section 134.001.

58.7 (b) Except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, the inspector general shall
58.8 notify and recommend to the commissioner to withhold payments to a program participant
58.9 in any program administered by the commissioner, to the extent permitted under federal
58.10 law, if the commissioner determines there is a credible allegation of fraud or theft for which
58.11 an investigation is pending for a program administered by the department, a Minnesota state
58.12 agency, or a federal agency.

58.13 (c) Allegations are considered credible when they have indicia of reliability and the
58.14 inspector general has reviewed the evidence and acts on a case-by-case basis. A credible
58.15 allegation of fraud is an allegation that has been verified by the commissioner from any
58.16 source, including but not limited to:

58.17 (1) fraud hotline complaints;

58.18 (2) claims data mining; and

58.19 (3) patterns identified through provider audits, civil false claims cases, and investigations.

58.20 (d) The commissioner must send notice of the withholding of payments within five days
58.21 of taking such action. The notice must: (1) state that payments are being withheld according
58.22 to this paragraph; (2) set forth the general allegations as to the reasons for the withholding
58.23 action, but need not disclose any specific information concerning an ongoing investigation;
58.24 (3) state that the withholding is for a temporary period and cite the circumstances under
58.25 which withholding will be terminated; and (4) inform the program participant of the right
58.26 to submit written evidence for consideration by the commissioner.

58.27 (e) The withholding of payments shall not continue after the commissioner determines
58.28 there is insufficient evidence of fraud by the program participant or after legal proceedings
58.29 relating to the alleged fraud are completed, unless the commissioner has sent notice under
58.30 subdivision 5 of the intention to take an additional action related to the program participant's
58.31 participation in a program administered by the commissioner.

58.32 (f) The withholding of payments is a temporary action and shall not be subject to appeal
58.33 under this subdivision or chapter 14.

59.1 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 127A.49, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

59.2 Subd. 3. **Excess tax increment.** (a) The county auditor must, prior to February 1 of each
59.3 year, certify to the commissioner of education the amount of any excess tax increment that
59.4 accrued to the district during the preceding year. If a return of excess tax increment is made
59.5 to a district pursuant to sections 469.176, subdivision 2, and 469.177, subdivision 9, or upon
59.6 decertification of a tax increment district, the school district's aid and levy limitations must
59.7 be adjusted for the fiscal year in which the excess tax increment is paid under the provisions
59.8 of this subdivision.

59.9 (b) An amount must be subtracted from the district's aid for the current fiscal year equal
59.10 to the product of:

59.11 (1) the amount of the payment of excess tax increment to the district in the preceding
59.12 year, times

59.13 (2) the ratio of:

59.14 (i) the sum of the amounts of the district's certified levy in the third preceding year
59.15 according to the following:

59.16 (A) section 123B.57, if the district received health and safety aid according to that section
59.17 for the second preceding year;

59.18 (B) section 124D.20, if the district received aid for community education programs
59.19 according to that section for the second preceding year;

59.20 (C) section 142D.11, subdivision 3, if the district received early childhood family
59.21 education aid according to section 142D.11 for the second preceding year;

59.22 (D) section 126C.17, subdivision 6, if the district received referendum equalization aid
59.23 according to that section for the second preceding year;

59.24 (E) section 126C.10, subdivision 13a, if the district received operating capital aid
59.25 according to section 126C.10, subdivision 13b, in the second preceding year;

59.26 (F) section 126C.10, subdivision 29, if the district received equity aid according to
59.27 section 126C.10, subdivision 30, in the second preceding year;

59.28 (G) section 126C.10, subdivision 32, if the district received transition aid according to
59.29 section 126C.10, subdivision 33, in the second preceding year;

59.30 (H) section 123B.53, subdivision 5, if the district received debt service equalization aid
59.31 according to section 123B.53, subdivision 6, in the second preceding year;

(I) section 123B.535, subdivision 4, if the district received natural disaster debt service equalization aid according to section 123B.535, subdivision 5, in the second preceding year;

(J) section 124D.22, subdivision 3, if the district received school-age care aid according to section 124D.22, subdivision 4, in the second preceding year; and

(K) section 122A.415, subdivision 5, if the district received alternative teacher compensation equalization aid according to section 122A.415, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), in the second preceding year; to

(ii) the total amount of the district's certified levy in the third preceding year, plus or minus auditor's adjustments.

(c) An amount must be subtracted from the school district's levy limitation for the next levy certified equal to the difference between:

(1) the amount of the distribution of excess increment; and

(2) the amount subtracted from aid pursuant to clause (a).

If the aid and levy reductions required by this subdivision cannot be made to the aid for the fiscal year specified or to the levy specified, the reductions must be made from aid for subsequent fiscal years, and from subsequent levies. The school district must use the payment of excess tax increment to replace the aid and levy revenue reduced under this subdivision.

(d) This subdivision applies only to the total amount of excess increments received by a district for a calendar year that exceeds \$25,000.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 136A.1276, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Report.** An alternative teacher preparation program receiving a grant under this section must submit a report to the commissioner and the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board on the grantee's ability to fill teacher shortage areas and positively impact student achievement where data are available and do not identify individual teachers. A grant recipient must submit the report required under this subdivision by January 31, 2018, and each ~~even-numbered~~ subsequent year thereafter this particular grant receives allocated funding. The report must include disaggregated data regarding:

(1) the racial and ethnic diversity of teachers and teacher candidates licensed through the program; and

(2) program participant placement.

61.1 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 268.19, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

61.2 Subdivision 1. **Use of data.** (a) Except as provided by this section, data gathered from
61.3 any person under the administration of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law are
61.4 private data on individuals or nonpublic data not on individuals as defined in section 13.02,
61.5 subdivisions 9 and 12, and may not be disclosed except according to a district court order
61.6 or section 13.05. A subpoena is not considered a district court order. These data may be
61.7 disseminated to and used by the following agencies without the consent of the subject of
61.8 the data:

61.9 (1) state and federal agencies specifically authorized access to the data by state or federal
61.10 law;

61.11 (2) any agency of any other state or any federal agency charged with the administration
61.12 of an unemployment insurance program;

61.13 (3) any agency responsible for the maintenance of a system of public employment offices
61.14 for the purpose of assisting individuals in obtaining employment;

61.15 (4) the public authority responsible for child support in Minnesota or any other state in
61.16 accordance with section 518A.83;

61.17 (5) human rights agencies within Minnesota that have enforcement powers;

61.18 (6) the Department of Revenue to the extent necessary for its duties under Minnesota
61.19 laws;

61.20 (7) public and private agencies responsible for administering publicly financed assistance
61.21 programs for the purpose of monitoring the eligibility of the program's recipients;

61.22 (8) the Department of Labor and Industry and the Commerce Fraud Bureau in the
61.23 Department of Commerce for uses consistent with the administration of their duties under
61.24 Minnesota law;

61.25 (9) the Department of Human Services and the Office of Inspector General and its agents
61.26 within the Department of Human Services, including county fraud investigators, for
61.27 investigations related to recipient or provider fraud and employees of providers when the
61.28 provider is suspected of committing public assistance fraud;

61.29 (10) the Department of Human Services for the purpose of evaluating medical assistance
61.30 services and supporting program improvement;

61.31 (11) local and state welfare agencies for monitoring the eligibility of the data subject
61.32 for assistance programs, or for any employment or training program administered by those

62.1 agencies, whether alone, in combination with another welfare agency, or in conjunction
62.2 with the department or to monitor and evaluate the statewide Minnesota family investment
62.3 program and other cash assistance programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
62.4 and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training program by
62.5 providing data on recipients and former recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
62.6 Program (SNAP) benefits, cash assistance under chapter 256, 256D, 256J, or 256K, child
62.7 care assistance under chapter 142E, or medical programs under chapter 256B or 256L or
62.8 formerly codified under chapter 256D;

62.9 (12) local and state welfare agencies for the purpose of identifying employment, wages,
62.10 and other information to assist in the collection of an overpayment debt in an assistance
62.11 program;

62.12 (13) local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for the purpose of ascertaining
62.13 the last known address and employment location of an individual who is the subject of a
62.14 criminal investigation;

62.15 (14) the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement has access to data on
62.16 specific individuals and specific employers provided the specific individual or specific
62.17 employer is the subject of an investigation by that agency;

62.18 (15) the Department of Health for the purposes of epidemiologic investigations;

62.19 (16) the Department of Corrections for the purposes of case planning and internal research
62.20 for preprobation, probation, and postprobation employment tracking of offenders sentenced
62.21 to probation and preconfinement and postconfinement employment tracking of committed
62.22 offenders;

62.23 (17) the state auditor to the extent necessary to conduct audits of job opportunity building
62.24 zones as required under section 469.3201;

62.25 (18) the Office of Higher Education for purposes of supporting program improvement,
62.26 system evaluation, and research initiatives including the Statewide Longitudinal Education
62.27 Data System; ~~and~~

62.28 (19) the Family and Medical Benefits Division of the Department of Employment and
62.29 Economic Development to be used as necessary to administer chapter 268B-; and

62.30 (20) the Department of Education Office of the Inspector General for investigations
62.31 related to fraud, theft, waste, and abuse or other misuse of public funds by a program
62.32 participant in a department program pursuant to chapter 127A.21.

63.1 (b) Data on individuals and employers that are collected, maintained, or used by the
63.2 department in an investigation under section 268.182 are confidential as to data on individuals
63.3 and protected nonpublic data not on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivisions 3
63.4 and 13, and must not be disclosed except under statute or district court order or to a party
63.5 named in a criminal proceeding, administrative or judicial, for preparation of a defense.

63.6 (c) Data gathered by the department in the administration of the Minnesota unemployment
63.7 insurance program must not be made the subject or the basis for any suit in any civil
63.8 proceedings, administrative or judicial, unless the action is initiated by the department.