



MEETING MINNESOTA STUDENTS' & FAMILIES' NEEDS

Minnesotans are facing enormous needs in the areas of early care and learning, K-12, and higher education. House DFLers are committed to exploring bold proposals that close opportunity gaps, lower costs, and improve economic security for Minnesota children, students, and families.

Early Care & Learning

Minnesota's system for child care and early learning was in deep crisis even before the pandemic — unaffordable and inaccessible for families and paying poverty wages for those doing this vital work. Investments in the early years have the biggest payoff for us all. This session, the Early Childhood Committee will advance a series of proposals to help parents to work, employers to expand, and children to thrive with the great start that they deserve.

*It would cost on average \$870 million annually to stabilize school budgets by **fully funding the special education and English language learner needs** throughout the state.*

*It would cost \$27 million for the biennium to **improve recruitment and retention of teachers of color.***

*It would cost \$1.4 billion annually to provide **high-quality early learning opportunities** for low-income Minnesotans, with livable wages for teachers.*

*It would cost \$900 million annually to **make early care and learning affordable** for middle-income families, with livable wages for teachers.*

K-12 Education

Special education and English language learner funding shortfalls are one of the biggest cost drivers Minnesota school districts face. The K-12 Education Finance Committee will look into ways to close these funding gaps and invest in our students to ensure they have access to these critical services and resources they need to be successful.

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Provide **Unemployment Insurance** for Hourly School Workers

Close Special Education and English Language Learner funding shortfalls

Higher Education

For years we have been hearing from Minnesotans that the cost of college is a barrier for far too many of our students and families. With a historic surplus, we have an opportunity to make a long-lasting impact across the state for Minnesota graduates struggling with debt and for prospective Minnesota students who are working toward a new career or training program.

*To meet the University of Minnesota's cost of attendance request, it would cost \$65 million annually and \$55 million to **freeze tuition at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities** in 2022.*

