

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 740
Version: As introduced
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Subject: Full Day Kindergarten
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DATE: March 18, 1999

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Overview

The first grade preparedness program was initially proposed during the 1996 legislative session as a full day kindergarten program. During the 1996 legislative session, the program was expanded to the concept of first grade preparedness. Full day kindergarten is a pilot program that expires after the 1998-99 school year.

The program established four regions within the state (Minneapolis, St. Paul, the suburbs, and Greater Minnesota) and each region was allocated 1/4 of the total money available for the program. Within each region, each site was ranked from highest to lowest percent of students eligible for free or reduced price meals, and funding was allocated to the sites based on this ranking. HF 740 extends the program, qualifies additional sites, and has the following fiscal effects (dollars are in millions):

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Minneapolis	\$7.8	\$9.1	\$9.3	\$9.4	\$9.5	\$9.5
St. Paul	\$8.0	\$8.9	\$9.6	\$9.6	\$9.6	\$9.6
Suburban	\$7.8	\$16.2	\$29.7	\$41.5	\$50.2	\$51.6
Rural	\$8.0	\$14.9	\$20.2	\$27.9	\$37.6	\$47.2
State Total	\$31.6	\$49.1	\$68.8	\$88.4	\$106.9	\$117.9

1 Qualifying school site. Makes the full day kindergarten program permanent. Phases in full funding for the program based on schedule where, for regions other than the suburban region, each site with more than 50% of the children eligible for free and reduced lunch initially qualifies for funding. Each subsequent year, this percentage is lowered by 10 percentage points. For suburban districts, each site initially qualifies if it has more than 25% of its students eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Each subsequent year, the suburban site qualifying level is lowered by 5 percentage points.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount to fund the full day kindergarten program.

3 Repealer. Repeals the program's status as pilot program limited to three years.

4 Effective date. Makes sections 1 to 3 effective July 1, 1999.