

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 247
Version: As Introduced

DATE: March 1, 2001

Authors: Anderson, I.

Subject: Funding for All Day Kindergarten

Analyst: Tim Strom, 651-296-1886

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Minnesota provides half-day funding for most school district kindergarten programs. This is accomplished by setting the pupil weighting for kindergarten students at .557.

The state also provides \$7 million a year for full-day kindergarten through the first grade preparedness program. School districts are sorted into four different regions (Minneapolis, St. Paul, suburban districts, and greater Minnesota districts). Each region gets one-fourth of the total annual revenue. These funds are distributed to school buildings in each region based on each building's relative percent of students eligible for free and reduced price meals.

H. F. 247 expands funding for full-day kindergarten to all school districts in the state by increasing the pupil weight for elementary pupils from .557 to 1.115 for kindergarten pupils who attend school on an all-day, every-day basis. According to November forecast data, there are about 55,000 kindergarten students being served by Minnesota's school districts and charter schools. The fiscal implications of this bill depend on the percentage of children who choose to attend kindergarten on a full-time basis. The annual aid entitlement cost of full-day kindergarten assuming a 95% participation rate would be approximately \$150 million.

1 Pupil unit weights. Increases the pupil weight for elementary pupils from .557 to 1.115 for kindergarten pupils who attend school on an all-day, every-day basis beginning in fiscal year 2002.