

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Restoration of funding for Community Education and ECFE Programs

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Overview

The 2003 Legislature reduced funding for the following early learning and community education programs:

- ECFE programs provide parenting skills to adults and early learning activities for children under the age of five. The ECFE program provides school districts with funding based on the number of school district residents under the age of five. The allowance was lowered from \$120 to \$96 per resident under the age of five;
- The community education program is the umbrella program designed to encourage a full range of community-related educational activities for young children, school age children and adults. The general community education revenue program provides school districts with funding based on the population of the school district. The allowance was reduced from \$5.95 per capita to \$5.23 per capita;
- The School Readiness program is designed to provide children with the pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills necessary to enter school. Funding is based on the number of four-year-olds who live in the district. Half of the money is distributed on population alone and the other half of the funds are distributed on a poverty basis. The aid entitlement for this program was reduced by \$1.3 million per year.
- The state makes grants to Head Start programs to serve additional children. The aid entitlement for this program was reduced by \$1.275 million per year.

This bill restores ECFE revenue, general community education revenue, school readiness revenue and state support for the Head Start program to the amounts that existed prior to the actions of the 2003 Legislature.

Section

- 1 Revenue.** Restores early childhood family education (ECFE) revenue from \$96 times the number of residents of the district under the age of five to \$120 times the number of residents under the age of five beginning in FY 2006.
- 2 Community education revenue.** Restores the general community education revenue amount to \$5.95 per capita beginning in FY 2006. The 2003 Legislature lowered the general community education revenue amount from \$5.95 per capita to \$5.23 per capita beginning in fiscal year 2005.
- 3 Appropriations.**

Subd. 1. Department of Education. Appropriates the amounts specified in subdivisions 2 to 5 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for the purposes listed.

Subd. 2. Community education aid. Appropriates \$3.391 million in FY 06 and \$3.143 in FY 07 for community education aid.

Subd. 3. School readiness aid. Appropriates \$10.684 million in FY 06 and \$11.093 million in FY 07 for school readiness aid.

Subd. 4. ECFE aid. Appropriates \$19.092 million in FY 06 and \$21.241 million in FY 07 to fund the ECFE program at the \$120 allowance level.

Subd. 5. Head Start program. Appropriates \$18.375 per year in FY 06 and FY 07 for Head Start Programs.