

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2

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Authors: Swails and others

Subject: Voluntary, Full-Day Kindergarten

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Overview

Minnesota currently provides funding for half-day kindergarten by counting each kindergarten student as .557 pupil units.

HF 2 increases the kindergarten pupil weight from .557 to 1.0 beginning in FY 2008 for any student that attends kindergarten in a full-day program. The bill is voluntary; it does not require a school district to offer full-day kindergarten, and it does not require parents to send their children to full-day kindergarten programs. This bill has a revenue cost of about \$143 million per year, assuming all students attend full-day kindergarten programs.

Section

- 1 **Pupil Unit.** Raises the pupil weighting for a student who participates in a full-day kindergarten program from .557 to 1.0 pupil units beginning in FY 2008.
- 2 **Learning Year Pupil Units.** Clarifies that in order to qualify as an extended time student (and generate extra funding through an extended time program), a kindergarten pupil in a full-day program must first receive at least 850 hours of instruction.
- 3 **Additional revenue uses; class size reduction program.** Eliminates full-day kindergarten as an option for a district to fund if the district has achieved class size ratios of 17 to 1 in kindergarten through third grade.
- 4 **Reallocating General Education Revenue.** Authorizes a school district to spend any money saved when 12th graders graduate early on early education programs including school readiness and early childhood family education programs.

