

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Kranz and others

**Subject:** Increasing Funding for Early Childhood Programs

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### Overview

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a program for all Minnesota families with children between the ages of birth to kindergarten entrance. The program is offered through Minnesota public schools. ECFE's goal is to enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for their child's learning and growth.

School Readiness is a public school program open to Minnesota children age 3 years to kindergarten enrollment. Usually, children are identified to participate in the program through Early Childhood Screening. School districts offer early childhood education programs and services unique to the needs of children and the resources in their communities. The goal of School Readiness is to help preschoolers enter school with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful in future learning.

Head Start is a full-service program for preschool children and their families. Head Start primarily serves three and four year olds from low-income families. Some agencies also provide a program for infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. All local Head Start programs must reserve space (at least 10%) for children with disabilities. Head Start services include education, health, nutrition, mental health and social services.

**Section**

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**1**        **Revenue.** Amends § 124D.135, subd. 1. Increases the school district revenue of ECFE programs from \$112 to \$120 times the greater of: (1) 150, or (2) the number of people under age five residing in the district on October 1 of the previous school year. Makes this section effective for revenue for fiscal year 2008.

**2**        **Amount of aid.** Amends § 124D.16, subd. 2. Makes school readiness aid an entitlement. Specifies that for fiscal year 2008 and later, the total statewide school readiness aid entitlement equals \$10.395 million. In fiscal year 2007, the appropriation for school readiness aid was \$9.02 million. Makes this section effective for revenue for fiscal year 2008.

**3**        **Appropriation.**

**Subd. 1. Department of education.** Specifies that the sums indicated in this section are appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education for the fiscal years designated.

**Subd. 2. Head Start.** Appropriates \$20.1 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$20.1 million in fiscal year 2009 for Head Start programs. In fiscal year 2007, the state appropriation for Head Start was \$19.1 million.