

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Bly and others

**Subject:** Early childhood screening and assessment

**Analyst:** Lisa Larson

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### Overview

Gives priority to serving at-risk parents and children in ECFE programs when funds are limited, directs the education commissioner to develop an ECFE program accountability plan, increases ECFE revenue and the amount school districts may levy for home visiting programs, directs the education commissioner to expand the kindergarten readiness assessment, and provides for parent education grants.

### Section

- 1**      **Program characteristics.** Directs limited Early Childhood Family Education funds to be used for at-risk parents and children. Allows Early Childhood Family Education programs to use DHS early learning guidelines or MDE early childhood indicators of progress.
- 2**      **Program accountability plan.** Directs the Education Department to develop a program accountability plan that focuses on ECFE families' race, ethnicity, and income demographics and requires programs not meeting the accountability standards to take corrective action.
- 3**      **Revenue.** Increases the revenue for Early Childhood Family Education programs for fiscal year 2008 and later.
- 4**      **Home visiting levy.** Increases from \$1.60 to \$3.20 the amount that school districts may levy for home visiting programs and includes hospital visits for families with newborn children in the program.
- 5**      **Parent education grants.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Directs the education commissioner to award grants to

organizations that focus on parents with children 0 to 5 from underrepresented populations.

**Subd. 2. Program components.** Requires programs to serve children 0 to kindergarten and their families. Requires grant recipients to: educate parents and providers; enhance families' skills; provide learning experiences that promote children's development; detect children's learning problems; provide information on community resources; provide abuse prevention programs; and provide early childhood services.

**Subd. 3. Evaluation and accountability.** Requires an accountability plan consistent with section 2 (Minn. Stat. § 124D.13, subd. 13).

**Subd. 4. Eligibility.** Requires grant recipients to: provide programming; serve underrepresented populations; serve at-risk families; employ well qualified staff.

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### **Appropriations.**

**Subd. 1. Department of Education.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the Education Department in the fiscal years designated.

**Subd. 2. Parent education grants.** Appropriates unspecified amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the parent education grants.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2007.