

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2209  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** March 10, 2014

**Authors:** Newton

**Subject:** Increasing School Readiness Aid

**Analyst:** Tim Strom

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/hrd.htm](http://www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm).

### Overview

A school district or group of school districts may establish a school readiness program to prepare children to enter school with the necessary skills and behavior to succeed. A child may participate in a school readiness program if the child is at least three years old and has had a developmental screening. Children under the age of three and one-half can be enrolled if the district determines that serving young children makes the program more effective. Most school readiness programs focus on children who are at least four years old.

Districts may establish a sliding fee for school readiness programs. Fees must be waived for participants who are unable to pay.

One-half of school readiness aid is distributed on the count of four year old children served by the district and the other half is distributed on the district's proportionate share of children qualifying for free or reduced price meals.

This bill increases the annual state aid for school readiness aid from \$10.1 million to \$30 million per year.

### Section

- 1** **Amount of aid.** Increases the aid entitlement for the school readiness program to \$30 million per year and places this amount in statute (under current law the aid is backed into based on the actual amount appropriated for the program).