

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Universal all-day preschool for four-year-olds

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Overview

Establishes a universal all-day preschool program for four-year-olds not receiving an early learning scholarship. Establishes criteria for a qualifying program and provides revenue.

Section

1 Universal preschool for four-year-old students.

Subd. 1. Child eligibility. Makes children who are four years old on September 1 and not enrolled in kindergarten eligible to participate in Minnesota's universal all-day preschool program. Allows an eligible child to choose to enroll in a program under this section or to apply for an early learning scholarship.

Subd. 2. Revenue. Allows a child eligible for universal all-day preschool who does not receive an early learning scholarship to enroll in a district's preschool program.

Subd. 3. Qualifying preschool program. (a) Allows a school district that meets the following qualifications to provide preschool services and enroll eligible children in the district program: preschool and kindergarten curriculum and learning standards are aligned; licensed early childhood education teachers are employed by January 1, 2017; children are assessed upon entering and exiting the program; the program offers comprehensive family services including developmental, behavioral, and health screening; the program offers compensatory, developmentally appropriate services in language, literacy, and math; and the program develops collaborative partnerships with

Section

school-based early childhood programs, kindergarten teachers, other school officials, and Head Start and community-based programs.

(b) Allows qualified preschool programs to lease space.

Subd. 4. Payment. (a) Allows a school district to provide preschool services for eligible children and to establish a new program where no qualified, reasonably accessible program exists.

(b) Allows a qualified program that offers additional services for the most at-risk children to receive a bonus equal to 10 percent of the per-child payment rate for each child served.

Subd. 5. Participation. Allows a participating school district to also participate in the early learning scholarship program.

Makes this section effective for revenue for fiscal year 2016 and later.

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Pupil unit. (h) Counts a pupil who is four years old on September 1 and is not already otherwise counted as 1.0 pupil units for purposes of basic revenue.

Makes this section effective for revenue for fiscal year 2016 and later.