

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: School Readiness Aid Expanded

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Overview

A school district or group of school districts may establish a school readiness program to enable 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 undergone 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.

The state provides state school readiness aid equal to \$12.17 million per year. One-half of school readiness aid is distributed proportionately on the basis of the number of four year olds resident to the school district. The second half of school readiness aid is distributed proportionately based on the district's share of the statewide free and reduced lunch count. Districts may establish a sliding fee for school readiness programs. Fees must be waived for participants who are unable to pay.

Districts must keep school readiness aid in a reserve account within the community service fund and spend the money only for school readiness purposes. A district may contract for services or provide school readiness programs through its own employees.

Section

- 1** **Amount of aid.** Increases school readiness aid from \$12.17 million to \$25 million per year beginning in fiscal year 2016.