

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 603  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** March 13, 2015

**Authors:** Kresha and others

**Subject:** Early Learning Scholarships; Appropriations

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

---

### Overview

The 2013 Legislature substantially expanded and codified Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarship Program. The program provides scholarships for early learning opportunities to lower income families with children aged three to five. For the current year, the scholarship is limited to not more than \$5,000 per eligible child. For later years, the maximum scholarship amount is set by the commissioner of education based on a market rate survey. The scholarships may be used at a qualifying private or public early learning program.

MDE divides the annual appropriation among economic development regions based on the region's levels of poverty, number of schools identified as "priority schools" under the state's accountability system, and number of current scholarship recipients.

MDE has developed two pathways for scholarships. Pathway I scholarships are awarded directly to eligible recipients. Pathway II scholarships are awarded to eligible recipients through qualifying four-star rated programs.

The base budget for this program is \$27.884 million per year.

### Section

- 1 Appropriations; early learning scholarships.** Appropriates an unspecified amount in excess of the base budget from the general fund to the commissioner of education for early learning scholarships.