

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: After-school community learning grant program

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Overview

Establishes a grant program and appropriates unspecified general fund sums to provide before and after-school programs and services to children who qualify for free and reduced-price meals to enable the children to become productive adults and acquire skills and behaviors needed to succeed in postsecondary careers and education.

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1 After-school community learning grant program.

Subd. 1. Grant program established. Establishes a grant program to support entities that provide before or after-school programs and services to K-12 students. Allows recipients to use the grant for enrichment activities promoting positive youth development.

Subd. 2. Application. Directs the education commissioner to develop the form and method for the grant application. Requires applicants to provide information on efforts to reach children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals and two-year measurable goals and activities premised on research or best practices. Directs the commissioner to develop criteria for allocating grants and appropriate goals for using the grants, including: building young people's capacity to be productive adults; and developing children's skills and behaviors for succeeding in postsecondary careers and education.

Subd. 3. Grant awards. Requires grant awards to be equitably distributed throughout the state to the extent practicable. Directs the commissioner to give priority to program providers that collaborate with existing and effective community

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resources. Makes recipients eligible for renewable, two-year grants subject to making satisfactory progress toward established goals and the availability of grant funds.

2 Appropriation.

Subd. 1. Department of Education. Appropriates the indicated general fund sums to the Department of Education in the designated fiscal years.

Subd. 2. After-school community learning grants. Appropriates unspecified sums in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Allows up to seven percent of the appropriation to be used to administer and evaluate programs and provide technical assistance, which includes partnering with Minnesota Afterschool Network, Ignite Afterschool, and others to ensure statewide strategies are implemented and lead to high-quality, research-driven opportunities.