

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains the governor's budget recommendations for prekindergarten through grade 12 education.

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Article 1: General Education

Overview

This article proposes to increase the basic formula allowance by one percent per year, establishes funding for a four-year-old prekindergarten program, and extends the maximum number of years of funding for participation in English language learner programs from six to seven.

- 1 Length of school year; hours of instruction.** Requires a prekindergarten program to include at least 850 hours of instruction during the school year and at least 200 hours of summer instruction.
Makes this section effective for revenue for fiscal year 2017 and later.
- 2 Alternative compensation revenue amount.** Reduces the per enrollee allowance for the alternative teacher compensation program (commonly called QComp) by the amount necessary to accommodate the additional prekindergarten enrollees authorized by this article.

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- 3 Prekindergarten program.** Authorizes a school district to offer a voluntary prekindergarten program for four-year-olds. Proposes statutory requirements for four-year-old prekindergarten programs including:
- ▶ limiting maximum class size to 20 or fewer children and requiring a maximum child-staff ratio of 10 to 1 or less;
 - ▶ requiring an individualized learning plan for each student;
 - ▶ phasing in the requirement that lead teachers be licensed;
 - ▶ requiring preschool instructional staff salaries to be comparable to K12 instructional staff salaries;
 - ▶ requiring collaboration and coordination with existing school programs and community-based early learning providers; and
 - ▶ planning for integrating services with child care centers, family child care programs, and Head Start programs.
- 4 English learner.** Increases the maximum number of years that state funding for English language services may be provided to an English language learner from six to seven years. Includes prekindergarten students in the funding formula for English language learners.
- 5 Pupil unit.** Creates a pupil weight of .5 for each student enrolled in a free all-day, every day prekindergarten program.
- 6 Basic revenue.** Increases the basic formula allowance by one percent in both years of the biennium. This increases the formula allowance from \$5,831 in FY 15 to \$5,889 in FY 16 and \$5,948 for FY 17 and later.
- 7 Operating capital levy.** Increases the equalizing factor for the operating capital levy from \$14,500 to \$19,500 for fiscal year 2017, \$20,400 for fiscal year 2018, and \$21,750 for fiscal year 2019 and later. These changes reduce the operating capital levy to offset other levy changes due to the creation of the prekindergarten pupil units and their inclusion in other school funding formulas.
- 8 Appropriations.** Appropriates money for the Governor’s initiatives and appropriates the base budget level for all other programs, adjusted for the change in pupil units. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 2: Educational Excellence

Overview

This article increases funding for the Success for the Future program and the Minnesota Reading Corps.

- 1 Minnesota Reading Corps program.** Requires the Minnesota Reading Corps to give priority to placing AmeriCorps members in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade programs in schools that have received “focus” or “priority” status on the Minnesota’s

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multiple measurements ratings programs or a school designated as a federal school improvement grant recipient.

- 2 Appropriations.** Appropriates additional funding for the Minnesota Reading Corps, and the Success for the Future program. Provides the baseline level of funding for all other programs in this article, adjusted for the change in pupil units. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 3: Special Education

Overview

This article provides funding for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

- 1 Definitions.** Clarifies the calculation of “general revenue” for purposes of calculating special education excess cost aid.
- 2 Appropriations.** Appropriates funding to the department for implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports for Minnesota schools. Provides the baseline level of funding for all other programs in this article, adjusted for the change in pupil units. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 4: Facilities and Technology

Overview

- 1 Appropriations.** Appropriates the baseline level of funding for all programs in this article, adjusted for the change in pupil units. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 5: Nutrition and Accounting

Overview

This article provides increased funding for the school breakfast programs.

- 1 Program reimbursement; school breakfast.** Increases the reimbursement to \$1.30 for each breakfast served to a student in prekindergarten, first, second, or third grade, allowing all students in these grades to receive breakfast at no charge (the 2014 Legislature made breakfast available to all kindergarten pupils without charge). Requires school breakfast reimbursements to be submitted to the Department of Education within 60 days of the close of each month in order for the claims to be paid.

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- 2 **Appropriation transfer.** Eliminates a cross reference to the funding for school readiness programs (school readiness funding is replaced with the prekindergarten funding authorized in article 1).
- 3 **Appropriation transfer for community education programs.** Eliminates a cross reference to the funding for school readiness programs (school readiness funding is replaced with the prekindergarten funding authorized in article 1).
- 4 **Appropriations.** Appropriates additional money for school breakfast. Provides the baseline level of funding for all other programs in this article. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 6: Libraries

Overview

- 1 **Appropriations.** Appropriates the baseline level of funding for all programs in this article. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 7: Early Childhood Education

Overview

This article increases funding for Head Start, provides money for a range of kindergarten assessment options, increases funding for the Northside Achievement Zone and the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, and eliminates categorical funding for the school readiness program.

- 1 **Services with new or existing providers.** Eliminates the requirement for a school district to submit a copy of each school readiness service contract to the commissioner of education.
- 2 **Kindergarten readiness assessment.** Requires the commissioner of education to develop a process for measuring kindergarten readiness and develop a list of valid and reliable measures of assessment aligned with World's Best Workforce goals of measuring school readiness. Requires a school district to use one of the kindergarten readiness assessments measures approved by the department.
- 3 **Family eligibility; early learning scholarships.** Authorizes early learning scholarships for children from birth to age five who are not enrolled in the full-day prekindergarten program authorized in article 1.
- 4 **Help Me Grow.** Requires the commissioner of education to coordinate activities with the Departments of Human Services and Health to implement the Help Me Grow program in Minnesota. Charges the Help Me Grow program with coordinating and collaborating services across sectors, including child health, early learning, and family support. Requires

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the Help Me Grow program to provide community outreach and disseminate information on programs and services.

- 5 Appropriations.** Appropriates additional money for ECFE (tied to the increase in the basic formula allowance), Head Start, kindergarten entrance assessments and the achievement zone/promise neighborhood. Provides the baseline level of funding for all other programs in this article. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 8: Prevention

Overview

- 1 Appropriations.** Appropriates the baseline level of funding for all programs in this article. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 9: Self-sufficiency and Lifelong Learning

Overview

- 1 Appropriations.** Appropriates the baseline level of funding for all programs in this article. See the House Fiscal Analysis worksheet for details:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/files/k1215app.pdf>

Article 10: State Agencies

Overview

- 1 Appropriations; Department of Education.** Appropriates money for the Department of Education including an operating adjustment for the agency of 1.8 percent per year, and adds additional funds for Regional Centers of Excellence (\$6 million over base), Help Me Grow (\$2 million), prekindergarten program administration (\$2.8 million), school breakfast administration (400,000), and English Learner program administration (\$1.4 million).
- 2 Appropriations; Minnesota State Academies.** Appropriates money for the Minnesota State Academies including an operating adjustment of 1.8 percent per year.
- 3 Appropriations; Perpich Center for Arts Education.** Appropriates money for the Perpich Center for Arts Education including an operating adjustment of 1.8 percent per year.