

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes a three-tier grant program to provide support services to close opportunity gaps and improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and their families within geographic areas experiencing poverty. Appropriates \$4,650,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$5,400,000 in fiscal year 2017 for this purpose and makes \$6,000,000 the base appropriation for this program in fiscal year 2018.

Section

1 Educational partnership fund.

Subd. 1. Program establishment. Directs the education commissioner to establish a partnership program for support services to close opportunity gaps and improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and their families within geographic areas experiencing poverty.

Subd. 2. Administration; design. (a) Directs the commissioner to establish and publish program requirements, the application process and time line for each grant tier, evaluation criteria, and a grant award process. Directs the grant requirements and processes to minimize administrative costs and grant applicant and recipient burdens and to provide a flexible program framework.

(b) Directs the commissioner to consider aligning the program with programs that focus on improving results for children and youth in a neighborhood or geographic area, build family and community supports with schools, maximize efficiencies across agencies, develop needed infrastructure to develop and expand effective solutions, and

Section

use appropriate outcome measures and periodically evaluate outcomes to improve systems.

(c) Directs the commissioner to consult with grant recipients to develop and revise progress indicators for each grant tier, reporting, program goals, and information to evaluate program outcomes and effectiveness for each grant tier. Requires performance evaluations to be based on each partnership's unique program criteria.

(d) Allows the commissioner to enter into administrative agreements with third parties.

Subd. 3. Requirements. (a) Requires a grant recipient's program to include support services programming and an evaluation system

(b) Requires support services programming to include kindergarten readiness and youth development, third-grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, postsecondary education, physical and mental health, career skills and readiness, parental involvement, community engagement and program alignment, and reduced remedial education.

Subd. 4. Grants. (a) Directs the commissioner to award three tiers of grants to the extent funds are available: tier 1 for community planning; tier 2 for capacity building; and tier 3 for sustaining and expanding programs.

Subd. 5. Legislative report. Directs the commissioner by December 15 in each odd-numbered year to report to the legislature on the grantees, their awards and activities, their performance measures and outcomes, and recommended changes.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015, and requires reports beginning December 15, 2017.

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Appropriations; education partnership fund. (a) Appropriates \$4,650,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$5,400,000 in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for the educational partnership activities funds. Distributes the appropriations among the three tiers.

(b) Makes funds available until expended and grants renewable.

(c) Makes \$6,000,000 the base appropriation for this program in fiscal year 2018.