

Subject Modifying the early learning scholarships program

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Summary

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has created two pathways by which eligible families can access early learning scholarships. A Pathway I scholarship is awarded to a child, and the award money is paid to an eligible child care provider selected by the child's family. A Pathway II scholarship is granted to a four-star Parent Aware rated child care program to be used for an eligible child.

Under current law, MDE must limit the amount of money it designates for Pathway II scholarships to no more than \$27.8 million (the amount of money that was designated for Pathway II scholarships in fiscal year 2017). This bill removes that cap, allowing MDE to determine the amount of money to designate to the pathways each year.