

Subject Making permanent voluntary prekindergarten seats

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Overview

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program began in fiscal year 2017 as one way to provide prekindergarten education services to students (primarily four-year-olds) who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The VPK program divides the state into four regions and awards seats and funding for the program to school district and charter school sites based on each site's percentage of free and reduced-price lunch eligible kindergarten students. The initial funding for the program was sufficient to fund seats for 3,160 four-year-old students on an ongoing basis.

In the following year, another 4,000 seats were added to the VPK program and a second program style, called School Readiness Plus (SRP) was created, although most of these newly qualified sites continue to use the VPK model. The 4,000 seats were initially added for two years only. The legislature renewed these seats in 2019 for two years and again in 2021 for another two years. The 4,000 seats are due to expire after fiscal year 2023.

H.F. 465 makes the additional 4,000 seats permanent for fiscal year 2024 and later.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Participation limits.
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Permanently sets the combined count of VPK and SRP participants at 7,160 per year.

The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.

Section	Description
2	<p>Pupil unit.</p> <p>Removes the sunset on the formula for calculating pupils under the expanded VPK/SRP program.</p> <p>The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.</p>
3	<p>Declining enrollment revenue.</p> <p>Makes conforming changes related to the permanent extension of VPK/SRP seats.</p> <p>The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.</p>
4	<p>Voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus levy adjustment.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Levy calculation adjustment. Directs the Department of Education to calculate each school district's levy, with and without a school district's portion of the 4,000 VPK/SRP program participants, and determine the difference for each school district. Requires that the difference is provided to each school district in state aid.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Levy certification. Requires the Department of Education to calculate each school district's certified levies for the year excluding the 4,000 VPK/SRP program participants.</p> <p>The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.</p>
5	<p>Appropriations.</p> <p>Appropriates the amounts necessary to pay for the increase in state aids to school districts and charter schools under this act from the general fund to the Department of Education.</p> <p>The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.</p>



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