

Subject Early childhood workforce development

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Overview

This bill establishes an apprenticeship program for early childhood workers and appropriates \$4,000,000 in the next biennium for the program. It also contains an appropriation for grants to update early childhood program curricula at postsecondary institutions, and an appropriation for students enrolled in early childhood programs at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Early childhood apprenticeship program.
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Creates § 119B.252.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of human services to establish an apprenticeship program for early childhood workers.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines terms used in the section.

Subd. 3. Eligibility for an apprenticeship. Provides that an individual must be at least 18 years old, enrolled in a course of study toward a degree in early childhood, and currently employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week in an early childhood program with a mentor onsite to be eligible for the apprenticeship program.

Subd. 4. Grant to apprentices. Allows an apprentice to receive up to \$10,000 for participation in the program, provided the apprentice complies with specified requirements.

Subd. 5. Stipends for mentors. Provides that a mentor will receive \$4,000 for each apprentice mentored, provided the mentor complies with specified requirements.

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Subd. 6. Stipends for early childhood programs. Provides that an early childhood program will receive \$5,000 for the first apprentice and \$2,500 for each additional apprentice hosted, provided the program complies with specified requirements. Limits an early childhood program to hosting no more than three apprentices at one site in a 12-month period.

2 Appropriation; early childhood apprenticeship program.

Appropriates \$2,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to the commissioner of human services for the early childhood apprenticeship program. The funding is ongoing.

3 Appropriation; early childhood curriculum grants.

Appropriates to-be-determined amounts in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for competitive grants to Minnesota postsecondary institutions to modify curricula for early childhood education programs. This is a onetime appropriation. Two annual reports are also required.

4 Appropriation; workforce development scholarships.

Appropriates \$500,000 in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to the commissioner of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system for the existing workforce development scholarship program. These amounts are dedicated exclusively to students in early childhood education programs.

The workforce development scholarship program awards \$2,500 annual scholarships to Minnesota State students enrolled in the following program areas: advanced manufacturing; agriculture; health care services; information technology; early childhood; transportation; or an additional program designated to address a regional workforce shortage. The current base appropriation for workforce development scholarships in the higher education budget is \$4.5 million per year.



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