

Subject Head Start funding

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Summary

Head Start is a federal program that provides comprehensive family-oriented services intended to improve the school readiness and social competence of children from low-income families. Head Start preschool programs primarily serve children aged three to four years, and Early Head Start programs serve children under three years old and pregnant women.

Head Start is primarily federally funded, but Minnesota has appropriated state funds to the program since fiscal year 1989. As of fiscal year 2024, the state annually appropriates \$35.1 million to the program (including both Head Start preschool programs and Early Head Start).

This bill increases the state's appropriation to Head Start beginning in fiscal year 2026 to a total of \$50.1 million each fiscal year.