

Subject Education Policy
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Overview

This bill modifies provisions relating to the Read Act, allows districts to implement innovative programs without approval from the commissioner, allows districts to transfer funds among accounts and funds, and allows districts to opt out of complying with specific laws enacted in 2023 and 2024.

Article 1: Read Act Reset

This article modifies Read Act definitions, ends the Department of Education's partnership with the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) on June 30, 2025, and makes other changes.

Section	Description - Article 1: Read Act Reset
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| 1 | Title; the Read Act.
Adds subdivision establishing legislative intent of the Read Act. |
| 2 | Read Act definitions; evidence-based.
Modifies definition of "evidence-based" to include "science of reading" and strike some portions of current definition. |
| 3 | Read Act definitions; science-based reading research.
Defines "science-based reading research." |
| 4 | Read Act implementation; Department of Education.
Ends the department's partnership with CAREI on June 30, 2025. Requires the department to complete Read Act implementation activities without CAREI's assistance. |

Section Description - Article 1: Read Act Reset

- 5 **Read Act implementation partnership.**
Ends the department’s partnership with CAREI on June 30, 2025. Strikes the requirement that approved curriculum be culturally and linguistically responsive, and reflect diverse populations.
- 6 **Teacher and administrator preparation and performance data; report.**
Requires reporting on teacher preparation program completers who pass the required teacher examination or performance assessment.
- 7 **Teacher licensure assessment; tests.**
Requires the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) to adopt rules requiring applicants for Tier 3 and Tier 4 licenses in elementary education to pass the examination or performance assessment of knowledge, skill, and ability to teach the science of reading.
- 8 **CAREI.**
Modifies a 2023 session law appropriating funding for CAREI; appropriation would cancel back to the general fund on July 1, 2025.
- 9 **Culturally responsive materials.**
Modifies a 2024 session law appropriating funding for culturally responsive materials; appropriation would cancel back to the general fund on July 1, 2025.
- 10 **CAREI paraprofessional and volunteer training.**
Modifies a 2024 session law appropriating funding for CAREI to develop training for paraprofessional and volunteer training; appropriation would cancel back to the general fund on July 1, 2025.

Article 2: Education Innovation

This article requires the commissioner of education to establish a new school performance report; allows districts to implement innovation zone plans without commissioner approval; allows districts to adopt P-TECH plans without commissioner approval; and makes other changes.

Section Description - Article 2: Education Innovation

- 1 School performance report.**
Requires the commissioner of education to establish a school performance report system that compares schools across three indicators: proficiency on state assessments; student attendance; and graduation rates.
- 2 Experiential and applied learning opportunities for students.**
Prohibits the commissioner of education from approving or denying a school board-adopted experiential and applied learning program.
- 3 P-TECH schools; board approval process.**
Allows a school board to adopt a P-TECH program without commissioner approval.
- 4 P-TECH schools; grant process.**
Clarifies that the commissioner is not authorized to approve or deny a locally adopted P-TECH plan.
- 5 Office of Achievement and Innovation.**
Establishes the Office of Achievement and Innovation in the Department of Education to assist districts and charter schools in researching and implementing innovative practices focused on promoting academic achievement. Requires the office to establish a central point of contact for districts and charter schools for approved nonprofit organizations.
- 6 Education innovation zones program.**
Modifies requirements for innovation zones and adds examples of programs and models that may be used in an innovation zone. Allows a partnership to implement an innovation zone plan without commissioner approval.
- 7 Department.**
Modifies a 2023 appropriation funding the Department of Education, as amended by 2024 session law; funding for equity, diversity, and inclusion would instead be for the Office of Achievement and Innovation.
- 8 Revisor instruction.**
Instructs the Revisor to codify a new chapter of statutes relating to education innovation, and codifies innovation zone session law in new chapter.
- 9 Repealer.**
Repeals the innovation zone session law subdivision relating to an advisory panel.

Article 3: Funding and Mandates Flexibility

This article allows districts to transfer money among funds for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and allows districts to opt out of complying with specified laws.

Section Description - Article 3: Funding and Mandates Flexibility

- 1 **Fund transfers for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.**
Allows a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit to transfer any funds not assigned or encumbered by staff salary and benefits or federal law, from any operating account or operating fund to the undesignated balance in any other operating account or operating fund.

- 2 **Relief from state mandates for school years 2025-2026 through 2028-2029.**
Allows a school board to delay compliance through the 2028-2029 school year with a PELSB rule adopted after July 1, 2023, or the following laws or any amendment to these laws enacted in 2023 or 2024, by adopting a resolution not to comply with laws enacted in 2023 relating to earned sick and safe time, paid family and medical leave, education policy, education finance, and children. Requires a district or charter school to continue to comply with all applicable federal laws and rules.



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