



2024 Legislative Session Update

Cathy Erickson | Director of School Finance

Shana Morse | Assistant Director of Government Relations

Adosh Unni | Director of Government Relations

Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. Prioritize equity.
2. Start from within.
3. Measure what matters.
4. Go local.
5. Follow the money.
6. Start early.
7. Monitor implementation of standards.
8. Value people.
9. Improve conditions for learning.
10. Give students options.



Agenda

- Legislative Overview
- School Finance
- Other Funding and Policy
- Questions?

Education Bills

- E-12 Omnibus Education Policy Bill
 - Chapter 109 (SF3567)
 - Passed 5/15/24
 - Signed 5/17/24
- E-12 Omnibus Education Finance Bill
 - Chapter 115 (HF5237)
 - Passed 5/17/24
 - Signed 5/18/24
- School Resource Officer Modifications
 - Chapter 78 (HF3489)
 - Passed 3/14/24
 - Signed 3/14/24
- Forecast Article*
 - Chapter 81 (HF4518)
 - Passed 3/21/24
 - Signed 3/25/24
 - *corrected in Chapter 86

Education Spending Targets

E-12 Spending					
\$ millions	Governor	Joint Agreement	House	Senate	Result
FY 2024-25 Biennium	(\$9,237)*	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000
FY 2026-27 Biennium	\$4,128	\$18,050	\$18,046	\$18,046	\$18,046

*Reflects \$50M cancellation of VPK set aside and new spending of \$2.797M.

School Finance

- **Voluntary Prekindergarten.**

- Allocates the \$50M set-aside from 2023 to increase the voluntary prekindergarten program seats to 12,360 in FY25.
- Establishes that Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts are individual regions for purposes of seat allocations. The allocations of other regions are not impacted by this change.
- MDE required to allocate the new seats by June 17, 2024, and notify districts by July 1, 2024.
- Some equalization formulas, including Local Optional Revenue (LOR) and Operating Capital, increased for one year to offset levy impact of additional VPK seats.

General Education (2)

- **School Unemployment Aid Funding Modifications.** Require funding to be paid on a 90/10 basis, instead of 100% in the current fiscal year, so that aid may be paid ahead of final audited data being received.
- **Compensatory Revenue**
 - **Pilot Program.** Maintains program at \$13M per biennium.
 - **Technical Correction.** Correct duplicative and conflicting language related to compensatory allowance for FY2026 and later.
- **Windom Supplemental Aid.** Reduced by \$840,000 for FY24 based upon updated pupil counts.

- **Kindergarten average daily membership (ADM) technical clarification.** Fully align the laws related to the ADM Change for Kindergarten Students with a Disability modification that was passed by the 2023 Legislature.
- **Area Learning Center Transportation Aid Modification.** Modify the allowable recipients of Area Learning Center (ALC) Transportation Aid to include cooperative units that provide their own transportation for ALCs. Include this aid stream in transportation sparsity calculation.
- **English Learner (EL) Cross Subsidy Qualifying Costs Definition.** Add a definition in law regarding allowable EL costs; more specificity in law is needed in response to new aid established in 2023. Makes a technical formula correction.
- **EL Task Force.** Will analyze how public schools use EL revenue, how microcredentials/credentials are used, and make recommendations on how to use funding more effectively.

General Education (3)

- **Operating Capital Levy Exemption Clarification.** Clarify that the aid related to purchasing menstrual products and opiate antagonists passed during the 2023 legislative session is not subject to the levy equalization under operating capital revenue statute.
- **One Room School House Funding Modification.** Change funding to the Warroad School District to operate the Angle Inlet School from a grant to an aid to simplify the distribution.
- **Basic Skills Revenue – Account Transfer Authorized.** Permit school districts to execute a one-time transfer of restricted balance sheet funds into another restricted balance sheet that is in alignment with uses.

American Indian Education

- **American Indian Education Aid Carry Forward Adjustment.** Revise the period in which American Indian Education Aid is carried over from one fiscal year to the next from six months to one year to be consistent with district financial reporting that occurs on an annual basis.
- **Permanent School Fund Supplemental Aid.** \$40,000 in FY25 for Tribal contract schools.
- **Permanent School Fund Task Force**
 - Purpose: to examine the distribution of earnings from the permanent school fund endowment.
 - MDE to convene by October 1, 2024, and report recommendations by January 15, 2026

Educators (1)

- **Paraprofessional Training**
 - For the SY24-25, districts required to provide **6 hours** of training and may be reimbursed for up to 6 hours. A separate payment equal to 2 hours (33% of the 6) of district average wage rate will be made.
 - Requires consultation with union rep for paraprofessionals before planning required trainings
 - Define "compensation" eligible for reimbursement as the regularly hourly wage, FICA taxes, and employer-paid pension contributions.
 - Clarify all recipients of this aid must provide required hours of training to eligible staff.
- **Paraprofessional Assessments.** Districts required to pay for test materials and fees for paraprofessionals employed during the SY23-24 that have not yet passed the test or meet the requirements of the competency grid.
- **Special Education Paraprofessionals.** Paraprofessionals employed and paid with special education funding during the SY23-24, may continue to be paid with State special education funding (not federal) for the SY24-25 if they:
 - Meet competencies 4 and 9 in the competency grid, or
 - Are enrolled in a ParaPro or Paraeducator training and testing program.
- **Paraprofessional Qualifications.** MDE and PELSB required to review paraprofessional qualifications.

- **Student Support Personnel Aid Modifications.** Allow districts and charters to retain unspent aid in a restricted fund balance, limited to the amount of the prior year's aid allocation.
- **Alternative Teacher Compensation Revenue Reserved.** Require funding for "Q Comp" to be reserved so that any unused funds are in a restricted fund and only used for their intended purpose.

- **Charter School Lease Aid Review Modification.**
 - Clarify that the commissioner may develop a system of analyzing charter school lease aid applications.
 - The system will support consistency in applications and allow for the evaluation of the financial viability of multiple charter school leases.

- Clarifies that districts subject to non-voter approved building projects that require a review and comment **do not need to publish or hold a public hearing** on the results of the review and comment, except:
 - Districts eligible for non-voter construction projects under Minnesota Statutes, section 126C.40, subd. 6, must hold a public meeting within 45 days of a review and comment decision.
- Changes the dates publication of review and comment to at least 48 days and **not more than 70 days** before a referendum. Prior legislation included not more than 60 days before a referendum.

- **School Food Service Fund.** Lunchroom furniture, including tables and chairs used by pupils to eat, added as an eligible expense in the school food service fund if a surplus exists for three successive years.

Other Funding and Policy

Student Attendance

- **Student Attendance Pilot Program**

- 12 school districts; Minneapolis led.
- Effective SY24-25 through SY26-27. Multiple reports to the Legislature required.
- MDE to support and provide statewide data analysis.

- **Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group**

- Purpose: study and evaluate ways to increase student attendance.
- Speaker of the House designates member to convene
- Reports due 11/1/24 and 12/31/24

Funding	FY24–25	FY26–27
Student Attendance Pilot	\$4,687,000	--
Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group	\$64,000	--
Minnesota Alliance with Youth (attendance and academic engagement)	\$625,000	--

General Education (1)

- Commissioner must allow districts to apply for a shift to a **Four-Day School Week**, and approval of four-day school week plan may not be revoked for six years from the date it is approved.
- Districts and charters must adopt a **School Cell Phone Policy** by March 15, 2025; MESPA/MASSP must collaborate to develop best practices.
- **Update language in Achievement and Integration** statute for cities of the first class to be match current language in statute.

- **Online Instruction Act**

- Correct **reference to federal law**, because it focuses on accessibility in the digital sense whereas 504 is nondiscriminatory language and accessibility in the physical sense (brick and mortar settings).
- Amend Act include **supplemental online course fees**.
- Revisor instruction to **remove any references to "state-approved"** regarding online learning in the Care and Treatment Online Option; after last year's Online Instruction Act, all public school districts are state-approved online learning providers.

Education Excellence (1)

- **Health Standards** shifted from local to statewide academic standard.
 - **Local health standards remain** in place until statewide health standards are ready to be implemented in the classrooms.
 - Legislation includes **mandatory topics** (CPR, vaping awareness, substance use, and STIs) and **optional topics** (child abuse prevention, violence prevention, character development, safe and supportive schools).

Funding	FY24–25	FY26–27
MDE Rulemaking and administrative costs related to creating statewide health standards	\$627,000	--

Education Excellence (2)

- Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, school districts and charter schools **must provide mental health instruction**.
- **Delays requirements** for 11th and 12th graders to take a course in government and citizenship by a year to the 2025-26 school year. Also replaces “credits” with “credit” for the purpose of physical education credits for graduation.
- **Delete SHAPE America standards** and sample assessments from statute.
- **Statewide Testing statute** (120B.30) cleanup that removes redundancies and creates transparency. Also aligns reporting requirements from MDE with English language proficiency assessments years.
- **Computer Science.** Computer science advancement grants established in 2023 statutory updates to ensure legislative intent is reflected in session law. Shifts \$50,000 from 2023 Computer Science appropriation to PELSB to begin rulemaking process for computer science licensure.

Education Excellence (3)

- Require districts to **develop a board-approved language access plan**. This policy will be publicly discussed and adopted at a school board meeting and can be tailored to fit the needs and access for the community. This plan must also be reviewed every two years and updated as appropriate.
- **Clarify required levels of language proficiency** for Minnesota Bilingual Seals to ensure equity-centered alignment to implementation based on data collected on Minnesota Bilingual Seals outcomes.
- **English Language (EL) Parent Notification Clarification**. Align state and federal requirements for parental notification upon entrance into a program for English learners.
- **Include EL Development Standards** in EL General Requirements for Programs. The EL Development standards are already required in Rule.

Education Excellence (4)

- Adds a **secondary notification date by which a student must enroll in a PSEO or rigorous coursework class** per school year.
- Requires districts and postsecondary institutions to **annually report to the commissioner the participation rates of pupils** enrolled in various rigorous coursework options.
- Adds **secondary and postsecondary students as required members** on the advisory boards at postsecondary institutions.
- Requires school boards to **adopt a weighting GPA policy** for postsecondary coursework as for concurrent enrollment coursework.
- **Shifts reporting dates regarding the Rigorous Course Taking Report** from February with no year to “by July 1, 2025 and each subsequent year by July 1.” This timeline will provide information on the full school year, not just the prior semester of the same calendar year.
- Clarification on new **PSEO student withdrawal notification** requirements passed in 2023.

Education Excellence (5)

- As part of a 9th grade or younger student's meeting to develop a plan for successful transition to postsecondary education or employment, and the annual review of said plan, the adults and caregivers must make sure the student remains **on track for graduation**.
- Renames the "World's Best Workforce" in statute to "**Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness**".

Education Excellence (6)

- **Student journalists** protected freedom of speech.
- Clarifies that **prohibition on withholding grades or diploma for nonpayment of fees** also applies to all districts, charters, and Tribal contract schools.
- **Cardiac Emergency Response Plans.** MDE required to include in crisis management policy effective January 1, 2025. LEAs may adopt this policy.

Education Excellence (8)

- **Civic education grants.** \$150,000 in FY25 for YMCA Youth in Government and Center for Youth Voice programs.
- **P-Tech Grant.** The grant is competitive for applicants statewide under three different grant types: implementation grants; support; start-up; and mentoring grants.
- **Minnesota Youth Council grant.** \$375,000 in FY25 for operations.
- **Emergency Medical Training Grants.** \$250,000 in FY25 for St. Cloud to build an EMS training facility.

Education Excellence (7)

- **Alternative to Publishing School District Proceedings.** Provides alternative of online posting and in libraries for all schools if local newspaper closes until August 1, 2026.
 - Certain schools in southwest metro only required to publish proceedings on website until August 1, 2026.
- Authorize school districts and charter schools to **release specific student data** to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for purposes of coordination special education services for students with disabilities.

American Indian Education

- **Indigenous Education for All.** MDE required to consult with Tribal Nations and TNEC on their need for additional funding to develop resources. Resources developed to date posted online and report of ongoing needs required by February 15, 2025.
- Religious instruction exemption extended to tribal students. Approved absences from school may be for instruction provided by **Tribal spiritual or cultural advisors**.
- A school district with a prohibited American Indian mascot that has not received an exemption from the Tribal Nations has their **deadline to switch their mascots extended** to September 1, 2026. These districts must report to the legislature by February 14, 2025, and again by February 1, 2026, on the district's progress to comply with the prohibition.
- **Smudging permitted** in public school property with sufficient supervision.

The READ Act (1)

Funding (2024 session)	FY24–25	FY26–27
Teacher compensation	\$31,375,000	--
Professional development (in addition to \$34.95M from 2023)	\$4,000,000	--
Culturally responsive materials	\$1,000,000	--
Regional literacy network paraprofessional/volunteer training	\$375,000	--
CAREI paraprofessional/volunteer training	\$375,000	--
Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Working Group	\$100,000	--
TOTAL	\$37,225,000	

The READ Act (2)

- **Teacher Compensation.** \$31,375,000 for LEAs to enter into MOUs or after consulting with teachers on allocating funds.
 - Greater of \$2,000 or \$36.06 times students served; 100% payable in FY25
 - May include stipends, payments based on hourly rate, reimbursement for training
 - Eligible teachers must be employed by LEA, currently in a position requiring a PELSB license, required to received training.
 - Within 30 days of MOU, compensation must be paid (stipends not considered income for certain purposes).

The READ Act (3)

- \$35M in curriculum funding from 2023 converted to be distributed on a per pupil basis to be used as **literacy aid**.
 - Greater of \$2,000 or \$39.94 times number of students served; 100% payable in FY25
 - Can be used to implement requirements under the READ Act or for literacy incentive aid uses.
- **Literacy Incentive Aid uses expanded** to include intervention specialists, approved screeners, and teacher stipends.
- **Professional Development.** \$4M in FY25 for statewide training and can be used to provide training in structured literacy for fourth and fifth grade teachers and literacy professors.
- **READ Act Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing working group** established to make recommendations on literacy training, screeners, and curriculum for students who cannot fully access sound-based approaches such as phonics by January 15, 2025.

The READ Act (4)

- **MDE and CAREI** required to:
 - Develop a **coaching and mentorship program** for certified trained facilitators.
 - Identify at least 15 **evidence-based literacy intervention models** by November 1, 2025.
 - **Develop and provide training** on interventions for unlicensed persons that regularly provide Tier 2 interventions in conjunction with the Regional Literacy Networks.
- MDE required to contract to develop **culturally and linguistically responsive** materials and to review literacy materials on an ongoing basis.
- Starting in 2033, MDE and an institute of higher education may partner to **provide a comprehensive review of curriculum and materials** and provide the approved list accordingly.

The READ Act (5)

- Defines "**certified trained facilitator**" for the purpose of employment requirements.
- **Oral language** statutory definition updated to include sign language.
- Districts required to **screen K-3 students three times per year**, increased from 2023 language requiring screening twice per year.
- Requires that **parents be notified of their students' screening** by February 15 each year and again within the final six weeks of the school year.
- Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, district staff, contractors, and volunteers may **only use screeners that have been approved** by the Department of Education.

The READ Act (6)

- For the 2024-2025 school year only, the **hours of instruction requirement for certain instructors and settings is reduced** by 5-1/2 hours for a district that enters into an agreement with the exclusive representative of the teachers that requires teachers to receive at least 5-1/2 hours of approved evidence-based training, on a day when other students in the district receive instruction.
- Districts required to use **only evidence-based intervention models** starting in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Tier 2 literacy interventions, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, must be **supervised by a teacher who has been trained** in approved reading instruction.
- Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, the **local literacy plan must include:**
 - **Plans and timelines** for adopting approved curricula and material.
 - The number of teachers and other staff **proposed for training** in structured literacy.
 - **How the district used funding provided** under the Read Act to implement the requirements of the Read Act.

The READ Act (7)

- Professional development training statute clarification for who must be trained by July 1, 2026:
 - Reading intervention instructors for students grades K-12.
 - All classroom teachers of students in K-3 and pre-k programs.
 - Special education teachers.
 - Curriculum directors.
 - Instructional support staff, contractors, and volunteers who assist in providing Tier 2 interventions.
 - Employees who select literacy instructional materials for districts.
 - Teachers licensed to teach English to multilingual learners.
- Professional development training statute clarification for who must be trained by July 1, 2027:
 - Teachers who provide reading instruction to students in grades 4-12.
 - Teachers who provide instruction to students in state-approved alternative programs.

The READ Act (8)

- By December 1, 2025 MDE required to **report to the legislature** on:
 - The number of teachers and staff required to complete the training who have not already done so.
 - The number of teachers who are exempt from the training.
 - The commissioner must update this report to the legislature annually through 2027.
- **PELSB must conduct an audit and report** first to the legislature by January 15, 2025, and provide a final report by August 1, 2026, evaluating whether and how approved teacher training programs for teacher licensure candidates have met subject matter standards for reading.

- **Technical statutory changes and corrections:**
 - Removes the delay on completing training for the PELSB literacy specialist.
 - Further statutory clarity on training required for early childhood programs.
 - Statutory cross-citation corrections to 2023 READ Act language.
 - Removes language in statute regarding extensions to training for teachers etc., provides statutory cross-reference to different sections of law that speak to extension applications.
 - Updates to effective dates for various requirements.

Educators (1)

- **Student Teaching Stipend Pilot Program.** \$6,543,000 for 8 teacher preparation programs to provide student teachers placed in Minnesota schools stipends during the SY24-25. Stipends should be awarded at approximately \$6,880/student teacher. PELSB required to report to the Legislature by February 1 and July 1, 2025.
- **Special Education Apprenticeship Programs.** \$1,030,000 in FY25 for \$250,000 grants to Intermediate School Districts 287, 288, 916, and 917 for special education registered apprenticeship program costs.
- **Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Program.** \$1,000,000 in FY25 for the Office of Higher Education (OHE) aspiring teachers of color scholarship program.

- **Paid Leave for School Closures.** Districts required to pay full wages for school employees during full or partial day closures when the day is an instructional day. School-age care employees must be paid for closures if family fees are collected. Work from home may be allowed to the extent practicable.
- **Teachers and paraprofessional compensation working group.**
 - Purpose: to advise the Legislature on **strategies and recommendations to provide competitive compensation** to teachers and paraprofessionals, including examining wages, health insurance, retirement, and college tuition.
 - PELSB required to convene by September 15, 2024, and report by February 15, 2025.

- **Grow Your Own Program Modifications.** Add Tribal contract schools as an eligible grantee, allow scholarships to be used at community colleges, and allow existing grantees to revise current grant agreements.
- **Special Education Teacher Pipeline Program Modifications.** Add Tribal contract schools as an eligible grantee and allows funds to support any participant employed by the recipient (including tier 3 and 4 license holders). Also allows existing grantees to revise under current agreements.
- **Statewide Teacher Mentoring Program Use Modifications.** Allow statewide teacher mentoring program funds to be used to support mentorship for Tier 2 special education teachers in addition to Tier 1.

- Clarify for **educator workforce initiatives** in 120B.117 which years the report on educator workforce initiatives is completed and submitted.
- **Aligns dates for the Teacher Supply and Demand Report** that PELSB must complete with various new educator workforce initiatives.
- **Ableism and Disability Justice Training.** Teacher preparation programs are encouraged to provide instruction to teacher candidates and school districts are encouraged to provide professional development for teachers and other school staff.
- Provides **PELSB the necessary authority to collect and retain nonlicensed staff data** on behalf of MDE, and holds them to various data sharing laws as a result.

- **Tier 1 and Tier 2 special education** license requirements:
 - Tier 1 and 2 special education recipients must receive high quality professional development, participate in intensive supervision, and demonstrate progress toward professional licensure.
 - Tier 1 licenses limited to three years of teaching special education.
- Modifies requirement for using the **portfolio process** to obtain a Tier 3 license.
- **Strikes skills exams** from statute requiring testing accommodations.

- **Prohibits a district or charter school from placing a teacher** in a teaching assignment if the teacher has been criminally charged with certain offenses or an offense that requires the person to register as a predatory offender, or a crime under a similar law of another state or the United States.
- School boards **required to provide written notice** to a coach whose contract the school declines to renew for the following school year no more than 60 days after the end of regular season activity.
- Requires the teacher evaluation rubric to be based on the **standards of effective practice** established in rules.

- **Expands eligibility for a Tier 4 license** to include a teacher who obtained a Tier 3 license through the portfolio process or holds a national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Allows a teacher who obtained national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to **obtain a Tier 3 or 4 license without taking the pedagogy or content exams.**

- Modifies the **definition of “heritage language and culture teacher”** to require the teacher to be proficient in the language and engaged in the culture. Includes some American Sign Language teachers as heritage language and culture teachers.
 - Requires the program to support heritage language and culture teachers to **prioritize the participation of teachers whose own heritage language** is one of the top languages spoken by Minnesota students and for which there is a licensure scarcity.
- Allows a Tribal contract school or group of schools, a coalition of districts, teachers, and teacher education institutions to **apply for a teacher mentorship grant**.
- Repeals section of law regarding **alternative teacher preparation provider report**, and section of law regarding remedial assistance on skills examination.

Special Education (1)

- **Adults with Disabilities.** Simplifies the adults with disabilities program approval process. Requires each school district to describe its program in its annual community education plan submitted to MDE. Requires the local community education advisory council to evaluate their adults with disabilities program at least once every five years.
- **Medicaid Billing.** Clarifies law to authorize certain social worker services to be covered by third-party billing in Medical Assistance.
- Make technical updates to language related to **developmental delay** criteria for children birth through age six.

Special Education (2)

- **Developmental adaptation** to physical education assessments permitted without IEP.
- Add specific reference to rule where **eligibility is defined for Part C**.
- **Clarification to Alternative Instruction Before Assessment Statute** that alternate instruction prior to referring a student for a special education evaluation (sometimes known as “pre-referral interventions”) is for school-aged (K-12) pupils only, and is not for students not yet in kindergarten.
- PELSB required to assemble **Special Education Licensure Reciprocity Working Group**.

Charter Schools (1)

- Reframes the primary and additional purposes of charter schools.
- Updates the **definitions for CMO and EMO** in Minnesota to differentiate the two clearly using the US Department of Education's framework. Clarifies "immediate family member."
- Clarify that all **non-exclusionary discipline** provisions/the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act apply to charter schools.
- Requires charter schools to adopt and review the newly created **language access plan**.
- Outlines the roles and **responsibilities of authorizers**.
- Technical change to authorizer application process language to clarify an "eligible organization" is applying that is not yet an authorizer.

Charter Schools (2)

- Outlines **responsibilities of the commissioner** in reviewing an authorizer's performance.
- **Remove "Statement of Assurances"** from new charter school applications to reduce redundancy as similar assurances are required in new charter school affidavits.
- **Remove redundant requirements in new school affidavit** that are already included in the authorizer's approved application. Clarify statute so that the grades and number of primary enrollment sites in **an approved affidavit are final** and can only be modified by the supplemental affidavit process provided in statute.
- Supplemental Affidavit Clarifications. **Clarify "longitudinal record", "academic performance", and "history of sound school finances"**.

Charter Schools (3)

- **Board governance clarifications and modifications.**
 - Establishes timeline when ongoing board structure must replace the initial board structure.
 - Clarifies board membership including, that what qualifies as a teacher and community member eligible to serve and limits on administrators serving on more than one board.
 - Provides more specific board election requirements to increase transparency and reach. Requires the board to adopt a nepotism policy.
 - Adds more specificity to board member training requirements.
 - Require publication of charter board meeting minutes within 30 days after the date of approval or the date of the next regularly scheduled board meeting, whichever occurs first.

Charter Schools (4)

- **Conflict of interest provisions strengthened.** Requires open bidding process and disclosure of payments to persons/entities that have a relationship with the authorizer. Exception provided for legal services.
- Requires nonrenewal/**termination of contract hearings** to be recorded, preserved, and publicly available.
- Clarify that a **change in authorizers for preoperational charter schools is not allowed.** The authorizer that approved the charter school application must make the ready to open determination.
- **Enrollment.** Adds requirement based upon expected hours of work a staff person must have to receive enrollment preferences for child(ren). Clarifies withdrawal parameters for enrolled students.
- **Charter Schools may not contract with an EMO/CMO to provide necessary teachers.**

Charter Schools (5)

- Rewrites requirements of a person eligible to serve as charter school administrator, including training requirements. Requires 2/3 board approval for administrator to serve another charter school.
- Prohibits charter school employees and board members from serving on the authorizer's board, and requires disclosure of any compensation they receive from the authorizer.
- **Rearrange financial requirements statutes** re: investments for charter schools. Moving “A charter school is subject to and must comply with sections 15.054; 118A.01; 118A.02; 118A.03; 118A.04; 118A.05; 118A.06 governing government property and financial investments;” out of 124E.16 and into 124E.26 so it is more prominent and not lost in the audit information.
- Provides more specificity on how charter school information must be disseminated, including requiring documentation in the annual report.
- Require **charter schools to establish and follow a procurement** policy when it comes to state funding to help safe guard schools and state funding and support public purpose.

Nutrition and Libraries (1)

- **Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected.** Public libraries in Minnesota must not ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to a book or other material based solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas, or opinions it conveys. Librarians may not be terminated or discriminated against for complying with this statute. Library governing boards must adopt a policy that establishes procedures for selection of, challenges to, and reconsideration of library materials.

Nutrition and Libraries (2)

- **State School Librarian.** Establishes a state school librarian at MDE. Funded with school library aid beginning in FY26.
- **School Library Aid.** MDE required to report to the Legislature how school districts and charter schools used the aid by January 15, 2025.
- Metropolitan Library Service Agency permitted a **temporary exemption** to Minnesota Rule regarding their executive director's requirement to have a Master's degree.
- **Clarification of statutory applications** for sponsoring organizations. Minnesota Statute 124D.111, subdivision 2a is intended to apply to nonprofit multisite sponsoring organizations but does not specify this under section (b); recommend language in that section change from “sponsor” to “nonprofit multisite sponsoring organization”.

Early Learning (1)

- **Early Learning Scholarships**
 - Allows up to \$7 million to be used for information technology costs to make prospective payments, allow applications online, and allow electronic submission and verification of family eligibility. Clarify that **child of a parent in foster care or in need of child protection services** qualifies for an early learning scholarship categorically.
 - Expand early learning scholarship **priority to children with an individualized education plan (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP)**.
 - Clarify early learning scholarship **priority applies to children who are receiving or undergoing** treatment in mental health or prenatal substance exposure.
- **Head Start Administrative Support.** Allows up to 2% of the Early Head Start and Head Start appropriation to be used for state-level program and funding distribution support beginning in FY2025.

Early Learning (2)

- **Merges** voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) statutes. Language makes clear student assessment data is required to be submitted and changes allocation process to operate on a 4-year cycle. Makes Minneapolis and St. Paul distinct regions.
- Revisor instruction to remove the term “**school readiness plus**” from statute throughout Minnesota laws. **Repeal** School Readiness Plus statute effective July 1, 2025.
- Separate the definition of prekindergarten from kindergarten; ensures consistent understanding and application of the term prekindergarten that can be referenced in other program statutes.

Health and Safety (1)

- Makes clear in statute that **charter schools also subject to Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.**
- Schools **encouraged to adopt a school policy** on parental notification for unscheduled student removal from class.
- Minnesota State High School League required to provide school coaches with **eating disorder prevention** education resources.
- Excused absence **permitted for appointments** conducted via telehealth.
- Districts and charters must provide **access to space** for a student to receive mental health care through telehealth.

Health and Safety (2)

- **Licensed School Nurse** position at MDE statutory qualifications modifications.
- Licensed school nurses in schools **authorized to administer necessary medication** in certain situations.
- **School Resource Officers** (Session Law Chapter 78)
 - Modifies 2023 legislative changes around **prone restraint and reasonable force**. Clarifies that school resource officers are not district employees or agents.
 - Removes "**imminent**" **standard** in reasonable force statute.
 - Defines school resource officer, establishes duties to schools and limitations, training requirements.
 - Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training must develop a model school resource officer policy and convene a group of group of representative education, community, and law enforcement groups.

Education Partnerships and Compacts

- Create a standalone state **council for the Military Interstate Children's Compact** required under 127A.85, Article VIII.
- **Benefits and rights extended** to children of Minnesota National Guard and Reserve members.
- Establishes **Purple Star School** designation process.

- Modifications to MDE's **Office of the Inspector General**.
 - Defined authority to investigate all funding overseen by MDE:
 - Subpoenas
 - Data access
 - Defined authority to enact sanctions on grant recipients; does not apply to aids.
- **Educators Online Licensing System**. \$2.767M appropriation to PELSB for information technology costs.
- **Maintain MDE Operations** for transfer to Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

FY2025-25	FY2026-27
\$173,000	\$690,000

- **Technical Grant changes**
 - **Grant Appropriation Availability Modifications.** Extend the availability of 7 grant programs administered by MDE from June 2024 to June 2025, and make technical corrections to 3.
 - **Grantee Timeline Revision.** Aligning the MCEE grant with other state-named grants, including distributing funds based on deliverables and eliminating statutory timelines for payment.

- Ongoing funding for administrative costs at MDE and DHS to implement the new **federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT) program**. The federal government provides 100 percent of the benefit cost and 50 percent of the state’s administrative costs. (Note: the DHS portion of this program will transfer to DCYF.)
- About the program:
 - Provides **\$120 per eligible child** for low-income families with school-aged children during the summer.
 - Benefits will come in the form of **pre-loaded cards** that families can use to purchase groceries.
 - Estimated to provide **\$42 million in federal funds** to Minnesota families.

FY2025-25	FY2026-27
\$3,424,000	\$1,144,000

Questions?

Thank you!

Cathy Erickson | cathy.erickson@state.mn.us

Shana Morse | shana.morse@state.mn.us

Adosh Unni | adosh.unni@state.mn.us