



## 2017 Legislative Summary

### **E-12 EDUCATION BILL (*Special Session HF 2*)**

#### School Readiness Plus & Voluntary Pre-K

- \$50 million for a new program called School Readiness Plus. This program is only funded for one budget cycle. This program would be a new option for school districts to fund a 4-year old program. Much of the program requirements for Voluntary Pre-K are similar to this new program, but it also requires at least one licensed teacher. Eligibility requires a child to have at least one risk factor to participate at no cost. The school district will create a sliding fee scale for children who do not have at least one risk factor. The risk factors are:
  - qualifies for free or reduced price lunch;
  - is an English language learner;
  - is homeless;
  - has an individualized education program, or individual interagency intervention plan;
  - is identified through health and developmental screening with a potential risk factor that may influence learning;
  - is in foster care.
- Adds language to prioritize grants in both the Voluntary Pre-K and School Readiness Plus to districts that have implemented a mixed delivery model (i.e. partnering with licensed child care center or family child care, Head Start, or other community-based programs and settings)
- Clarifies that all funding received in 2018 or 2019 for these programs must be used to supplement, not supplant existing state, federal and local revenue.

#### Early Learning Scholarships

- \$20 million in new funding for early learning scholarships for a total of \$140 million.
  - Broadens eligibility to include a child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course of study for a high school equivalency test; homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services
  - Caps the Pathway 2 scholarship funding at current levels
  - Delays the requirement for programs to have a 3 or 4 star rating in order to accept scholarships to July 1, 2020

### Additional Program Funding

- \$2.8 million for ECFE (this is because of the 2% increase on the E-12 formula)
- Implements and funds an Education Partnership Coalition Fund to continue and expand the work of the Promise Neighborhoods/Transformation zones.
  - \$2.6 million each year to the Northside Achievement Zone and the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood.
  - For fiscal years 2018 and 2019 only, \$160,000 each year is for the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative in Northfield; \$160,000 is for the Jones Family Foundation for the Every Hand Joined program in Red Wing; and \$160,000 is for the United Way of Central Minnesota for the Partners for Student Success program.
- \$2.65 million for Minnesota Reading Corps

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL (*Special Session SF 2*)**

#### Child Care Assistance Program

- Implements several family friendly provisions required by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), including:
  - Eligibility redetermination every 12 months (instead of the current 6 month requirement)
  - No change to eligibility during the 12 month period due to income changes (unless income exceeds 85% of the state median income)
  - No reduction in the authorized number of hours during the 12 month period due to reductions or temporary changes in work hours
  - Some additional flexibility/consistency around the use of approved education and training programs
  - Extended eligibility for 3 months after work or school/training programs end
- Modifies the maximum rate for child care providers who are located within the boundaries of a city located in two or more of the counties of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns at the maximum rate paid in the county with the highest maximum reimbursement rates or the provider's charge, whichever is less.

#### Federal conformity with the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

- Requires an annual unannounced inspection for programs licensed under Minnesota chapters 9502 or 9503.
- Requires that the commissioner make publicly available on the department's website the results of inspection reports of all child care providers licensed under Minnesota chapters 9502 or 9503, as well as the number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated maltreatment that occurred in licensed child care settings each year.
- Requires that an enrolled child's parent or legal guardian must be allowed access to their child any time while they are in care.

- Adds Health and Safety requirements related to allergy prevention and response, handling and disposal of bodily fluids, and emergency preparedness for licensed programs, including the creation of an emergency preparedness plan.
- Enhances the background check process and defines “child care staff persons” that must be included in background checks (including licensed, legal non-licensed and certified providers).
- Creates a certification process for license-exempt child care centers, as well as inspection and monitoring and training requirements for these settings.

#### Other licensing and regulation measures

- Requires a licensing agency to offer a child care license holder an exit interview to discuss violations observed during inspection and offer technical assistance to help the license holder comply, before completing a licensing inspection.
- Requires the commissioner to issue an amended correction order and requires the license holder to post the amended order, if the commissioner reverses or rescinds a violation in a correction order upon reconsideration.
- Prohibits the commissioner and county licensing agencies from mandating or suggesting quotas for issuing correction orders to any person responsible for licensing or inspecting child care centers or family child care providers.
- Requires the commissioner to issue a “fix-it ticket” to a child care license holder under a variety of specific situations.
- Directs the commissioner to develop guidelines for posting public licensing data for licensed child care programs. In developing the guidelines, the commissioner shall consult with stakeholders, including licensed child care center providers, family child care providers, and county agencies.

#### Home Visiting

- Sets MA payment rates for prenatal and post-partum follow-up home visits provided by a public health nurse, or a registered nurse supervised by a public health nurse, using evidence-based models, at a minimum of \$140 per visit
- Provides funding to start up or expand evidence-based home visiting programs to serve families, such as a parent with high risk or high needs, parents with a history of mental illness, domestic abuse, or substance abuse, or first-time mothers prenatally until the child is four years of age who are eligible for medical assistance or the WIC program.

#### Other elements

- Requires the Commissioner of Human Services to provide a report on the status of child care in Minnesota to the chairs and ranking minority members of committees with jurisdiction over child care, by February 1, 2018.
- Provides funding for the Minnesota Birth to Eight Pilot Project that will evaluate the impact of a coordinated systems and service delivery approach on key developmental milestones and outcomes that ultimately lead to reading proficiency by age eight within the target population.

- Incorporates the Governor’s proposed changes to the Child Care Assistance program to address program integrity concerns including recipient potential fraud and misuse, provider fraud, and administrative errors.

**TAXES BILL (*Special Session HF 1*)**

- Increases the state dependent care credit to equal the federal credit, \$35 million.

**OMNIBUS HIGHER EDUCATION BILL (*SF 943*)**

- Increases the base funding for child care grants by \$20,000 (from \$13.36 million to \$13.38 million per biennium)
- Also increases the amount of each child care grant for college students to \$3,000 and extends the time for use for the grant from eight to ten semesters
- Requires postsecondary educational institutions to provide information to pregnant students and student parents. The information must include a fact sheet on the legal rights of student parents and pregnant students and a list of resources to support student parents and pregnant students.

**OMNIBUS JOBS BILL (*SF 1456*)**

- Provides child care business start-up and expansion grants to local communities to increase the supply of quality child care providers in order to support economic development.
  - At least 60 percent of grant funds must go to communities located outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.
  - Grant recipients must obtain a 50 percent non-state match to grant funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.
  - Grant funds available under this paragraph must be used to implement solutions to reduce the child care shortage in the state including but not limited to funding for child care business start-ups or expansions, training, facility modifications or improvements required for licensing, and assistance with licensing and other regulatory requirements.
  - In awarding grants, the commissioner must give priority to communities that have documented a shortage of child care providers in the area.
  - \$519,000 in 2018 only.
- Funds the YWCA of Minneapolis with a grant to provide economically challenged individuals the job skills training, career counseling, and job placement assistance necessary to secure a child development associate credential and to have a career path in early childhood education.
  - This is a onetime appropriation. \$1,050 million for 2018-19 only.
- Funds the FATHER project with grant to Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota and its partners.

- The grant shall be used to continue the FATHER Project in Rochester, Park Rapids, St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and the surrounding areas to assist fathers in overcoming barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally.
- \$1 million in 2018-19 only.