

Governor Walz and his first State of the State

Gov. Walz gave his first State of the State Address before a joint session of the House and Senate last week. The House chamber was packed with members, constitutional officers, staff, and invited guests and for the first time in Minnesota history, three chaplains of different faiths opened the evening in prayer.

The governor focused on bringing the only divided legislature in the nation together --theme throughout his speech focused on bridging divides and working together for his [“One Minnesota” plan](#). He also strongly encouraged the legislature to come together to finish session on time and contended that Minnesota could come together for the good of Minnesota.

Nearing Third Deadline/Other Key Dates

Both the House and Senate need to finish their budget bills by the third deadline —Friday, April 12. After that, they will leave for a week-long break over the Easter/Passover holidays. The break begins Saturday, April 13 and they will return Tuesday, April 23.

House E12 Education Omnibus Bill Moving to Next Stop

Last week, the House Education Finance Committee finished its work on the omnibus bill and passed it out of committee. It heads next for a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee and then the Tax Committee. We expect the full House to vote on the bill shortly after the legislative break. I’ve attached a summary, which includes relevant tracking documents for the bill.

Senate E12 Education Bill Next Up

The Senate will begin its work on their E-12 Education Omnibus Bill Tuesday, with a draft scheduled to be released some time Monday afternoon. The committee will meet on Tuesday to review the bill and then will pass it out of that committee on Wednesday.