

House and Senate reach agreement on E12 funding and policy provisions

The supplemental budget conference committee reached an agreement on the E12 funding and policy portions of the supplemental budget bill. Included is \$28 million in FY19 and \$30 million FY20-21 for E12 funding. A majority of the funding goes to school districts for school safety. Governor Dayton is expected to begin negotiating with the House and Senate to reach a compromise on a budget bill he will support. He continues to advocate for \$138 million in one-time emergency funding and stated he would not agree to a tax bill until an agreement was reached on this emergency funding.

Several proposals originally included in either the House or Senate bills were dropped during negotiations - the permanent extension of one-time funding for school readiness plus, mixed delivery and portability provisions in school readiness plus/voluntary pre-kindergarten, and \$400,000 in funding for three community based ABE providers. In addition, the House bill included four fund transfers, of which only one remains, the Minnetonka request to transfer funds to its operating capital account to expand its early learning facility.

Here is a summary of the community education provisions included in the [agreement](#). A lot remains uncertain at this point but with four days left a lot could change!

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

- Requires the commissioner to provide districts with a process for measuring kindergarten readiness of incoming kindergarten students. If districts use this process, they must report results to the commissioner who must summarize and report this information as part of the performance reporting.

Voluntary PreK/School Readiness Plus

- Removes the requirement of a licensed school teacher in school readiness plus.
- Changes the requirement for a teacher in a school readiness plus program so that they either must meet the criteria of a school readiness plus teacher or the criteria for a voluntary prekindergarten teacher.
- Clarifies that the cognitive and social skills formative measure administered to prekindergarten pupils must be age appropriate.
- Splits Minneapolis and St Paul school districts into two separate regions for the purposes of allocating voluntary prekindergarten funds.

Early Learning Scholarships

- Adds language to allow children in protective services or experiencing homelessness to qualify for early learning scholarships without providing income verification.
- Eliminates the need for parents to verify income for homeless children or children in need of protective services.
- Clarifies children receiving a scholarship are required to receive developmental screening within 90 days of their third birthday.