

HOUSE AND SENATE K12 OMNIBUS BUDGET BILLS AND SENATE EDUCATION POLICY BILL

The House Omnibus Education Finance bill appropriates \$31.8 million in FY19 and an additional \$55 million into the next biennium with most of the funding, \$26 million, going to school districts for school safety purposes. The Senate Omnibus Education Finance bill appropriates \$22.6 million in FY19 and an additional \$11.8 million into the next biennium. Like the House, most of this funding, \$19.8 million, is invested in providing school districts increased safe school's revenue.

The Senate appropriations bill has few policy proposals included in supplemental budget bill as their policy priorities are moving as a stand-alone bill. The House bill includes all of its policy priorities as adopted by the House Education Policy Committee in the supplemental budget bill. A summary of all these proposals is also included in this document. It is noted which Senate provisions are from SF3086, the Senate Omnibus Education Policy bill.

Neither the House or the Senate included the Governor's recommendations to continue with School Readiness Plus.

Voluntary PreK/School Readiness Plus

House:

- Removes the requirement for School Readiness Plus that a district hire a licensed teacher and aligns the programs requirements with those of Voluntary PreK.
- Clarifies that the cognitive and social skills formative measure administered to prekindergarten pupils must be age appropriate.
- Splits the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts into two separate regions for purposes of allocating voluntary prekindergarten funds.
- Clarifies that the cognitive and social skills formative measure administered to prekindergarten pupils must be age appropriate.

Senate:

- Requires the districts contract with at least 40% of the VPK students with another a three- or four-star Parent Aware rated program. This applies to any district serving more voluntary prekindergarten participants than in FY19. Authorizes the commissioner to waive the mixed-delivery requirements if the district provides evidence that they were unable to contract for mixed delivery.
- Clarifies that the cognitive and social skills formative measure administered to prekindergarten pupils must be age appropriate.
- Requires that voluntary prekindergarten revenue and school readiness plus revenue supplement, not supplant, existing local, state, and federal revenues for prekindergarten activities.

Early learning scholarships

House: Includes the following provisions:

- Adds language to allow children in protective services or experiencing homelessness to qualify for early learning scholarships without providing income verification.

- Clarifies that children receiving a scholarship are required to receive developmental screening within 90 days of their third birthday.
- Authorizes early learning scholarships to carry forward from the first to the second year of each biennium.
- Allows any unused balances in the second year of the biennium to carry forward for another three months.

Senate: Same provisions as House. (These provisions are included in SF3086, the Senate Omnibus Education policy bill which is moving separately from the Senate appropriations bill.)

Kindergarten readiness assessment

House: 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 of to the commissioner who must summarize and report this information as part of the performance reporting.

Senate: No comparable provision.

Fund transfers

House:

- Authorizes the Minnetonka school district to transfer up to \$2.4 million from its community education reserve account to its reserved for operating capital account for the construction costs associated with the district's early childhood spaces.
- Authorizes the Ivanhoe school district to transfer up to \$79,000 from its community education reserve account to its undesignated general fund.
- Authorizes the Minneapolis school district to transfer up to \$5.5 million from its community education reserve account to its undesignated general fund for school district support personnel, including mental health professionals.
- Authorizes the Hopkins school district to transfer up to \$500,000 from its community education reserve account to its reserved for operating capital account for the construction costs associated with the district's early childhood spaces.

Senate: No comparable provisions.

ABE aid for community-based providers

House: No comparable provisions.

Senate: Allows the International Education Center, the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Minnesota Office of Communication Service for the Deaf to receive additional adult basic education aid for FY19 only. The additional aid equals \$400,000 times the ratio of (1) the number

of students served by the organization for the previous fiscal year to (2) the sum of the number of students served for the previous fiscal year by all eligible organizations.

High school equivalency test

House: Clarifies that the state may select more than one high school equivalency test.

Senate: Same as House provision.