

COVID-19 and the Capitol

Things are unfolding very quickly at the Capitol surrounding coronavirus. At this point in time, it is difficult to predict where we are headed with the future of session. Many groups are canceling their days at the Capitol and announced they are not taking in-person meetings. Thursday evening the Speaker of the House announced that no legislative business (committee hearings, legislative meetings etc.) is to be done except for a Monday House floor session. Notable also were Governor Walz's comments when releasing his supplemental budget recommendations in which he strongly urged legislators to quickly pass a supplemental budget bill, a bonding bill, more coronavirus response legislation and then adjourn.

We will keep you updated as I learn more and will continue to work to advance your priorities throughout the end of session, whenever that may be.

School funding in the case of school closures

We have received questions about what would happen in the case of a school closure and the potential impact that would have on funding, especially for those funding areas that rely on fees and on students served – food service and community education in particular. This concern is on our minds and we are doing our best to communicate the potential impact to MDE and the legislature.

Supplemental Budget Recommendations

Governor Walz supplemental budget proposal includes \$525 million in additional funding and leaves about \$1 billion of the budget surplus unspent due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The biggest priorities of his budget include replenishing the budget reserve, protecting Minnesotans from COVID-19 and preparing for natural disasters.

The biggest portion of his E-12 budget recommendations go towards student mental health support (over \$20 million in FY21; \$25 million in FY22; and almost \$27 million in FY23). The governor also proposes funding for full-service community schools and equity coaches, and a few other smaller budget items. Details of his proposal are attached but at this point it's unclear what, if anything, will be moving forward on a supplemental budget.