

A bill for an act
relating to education; expanding early childhood developmental screening;
appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 124D.13,
subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; 124D.135, subdivisions 1, 6.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 124D.13, subdivision 2, is amended to
read:

Subd. 2. **Program characteristics.** (a) Early childhood family education programs
are programs for children in the period of life from birth to kindergarten, for the parents
and other relatives of these children, and for expectant parents. To the extent that funds
are insufficient to provide programs for all children, early childhood family education
programs should emphasize programming for a child from birth to age three, and
programming for parents and their children who may be at risk of not being ready for
kindergarten. Programs may use the Minnesota early learning guidelines for children birth
to age three developed by the commissioner of human services or the early childhood
indicators of progress for children ages three to five developed by the commissioner of
education. Programs should also encourage parents and other relatives to involve four- and
five-year-old children in school readiness programs, and other public and nonpublic early
learning programs. Early childhood family education programs may include the following:

(1) programs to educate parents and other relatives about the physical, mental,
and emotional development of children;

(2) programs to enhance the skills of parents and other relatives in providing for
their children's learning and development;

(3) learning experiences for children and parents and other relatives that promote children's development;

(4) activities designed to detect children's physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral problems that may cause learning problems;

(5) activities and materials designed to encourage self-esteem, skills, and behavior that prevent sexual and other interpersonal violence;

(6) educational materials which may be borrowed for home use;

(7) information on related community resources;

(8) programs to prevent child abuse and neglect;

(9) other programs or activities to improve the health, development, and school readiness of children; or

(10) activities designed to maximize development during infancy.

The programs must not include activities for children that do not require substantial involvement of the children's parents or other relatives. The programs must be reviewed periodically to assure the instruction and materials are not racially, culturally, or sexually biased. The programs must encourage parents to be aware of practices that may affect equitable development of children.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "relative" or "relatives" means noncustodial grandparents or other persons related to a child by blood, marriage, adoption, or foster placement, excluding parents.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 124D.13, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 13. **Program accountability plan.** To ensure early childhood family education programming is accessible for all families in the state, the department must develop and implement a program accountability plan that focuses on the race, ethnicity, and income demographics of the families being served by ECFE and requires corrective action for those programs not meeting accountability standards.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 124D.135, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Revenue.** The revenue for early childhood family education programs for a school district equals ~~\$112~~ \$120 for fiscal year ~~2007~~ 2008 and later, times the greater of:

(1) ~~150~~ 180; or

(2) the number of people under five years of age residing in the district on October 1 of the previous school year.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 124D.135, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Home visiting levy.** A district that enters into a collaborative agreement to provide education services and social services to families with young children may levy an amount equal to ~~\$1.60~~ \$3.20 times the number of people under five years of age residing in the district on September 1 of the last school year. Levy revenue under this subdivision must not be included as revenue under subdivision 1. The revenue must be used for home visiting programs under section 124D.13, subdivision 4, and may include hospital visits for families of newborns.

Sec. 5. **PARENT EDUCATION GRANTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of education shall make grants available to organizations that focus on parent education to promote school readiness for parents of children birth to age five from underrepresented populations, including immigrant, English as a second language, tribal, low-income, and cultural communities.

Subd. 2. **Program components.** Programs will serve children in the period of life from birth to kindergarten, the parents and other relatives of these children, and expectant parents. Grant recipients must provide:

(1) programs to educate parents, other relatives, or child care providers about the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development of children;

(2) programs to enhance the skills of parents, other relatives, or child care providers in providing for children's learning and development;

(3) learning experiences for children and parents, other relatives, or child care providers that promote children's development;

(4) activities designed to detect children's physical, social-emotional, or behavioral problems that may cause learning problems;

(5) information on related community resources;

(6) programs to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

(7) activities which allow a licensed parent educator to provide services for early childhood programs.

Subd. 3. **Evaluation and accountability.** Programs receiving grant funding under this section must participate in the same evaluation process developed in section 2.

Subd. 4. **Eligibility.** An eligible grant recipient must:

(1) provide programming for parents and their children;

(2) serve underrepresented populations, including immigrant, English as a second language, tribal, low-income, and cultural communities;

(3) serve families with risk factors as determined by the commissioner; and

4.1 (4) employ a well-educated staff qualified to meet the needs of families they serve.

4.2 Sec. 6. APPROPRIATIONS.

4.3 Subdivision 1. Department of Education. The sums indicated in this section are
4.4 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education for the fiscal years
4.5 designated.

4.6 Subd. 2. Parent education grants. For parent education grants:

4.7 \$ 2008

4.8 \$ 2009