

A bill for an act
relating to education finance; creating a unified technology funding stream;
developing a school district technology plan; establishing a task force;
authorizing technology grants; appropriating money.

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

Section 1. **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS; TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED.**

Subdivision 1. Task force established. A school technology task force is established.

Subd. 2. Task force goals. The goals of the school technology task force include:
(1) developing minimum standards for technology infrastructure and capacity;
(2) creating standards for local and state online student assessments;
(3) creating standards for electronic student records;
(4) developing school interoperability frameworks;
(5) developing policies and procedures that ensure instructional resource availability to help students successfully achieve education excellence and state standards;
(6) developing databases that are accessible to and within each district and on the Internet;
(7) developing policies, procedures, and systems that stimulate and promote teacher and student curriculum and learning collaboration;
(8) developing uniform technology standards;
(9) establishing adequate Internet and bandwidth capacity; and
(10) analyzing the Department of Education's data collection procedures under each of the department's major data reporting systems, and developing recommendations for streamlining the reporting of school district data and eliminating duplication.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Task force members.** The commissioner of education shall appoint the
2.2 members of the task force from each of the following:

2.3 (1) one member from the Department of Education who shall serve as chair;

2.4 (2) one member from the Office of Enterprise Technology;

2.5 (3) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.6 commissioner by Education Minnesota;

2.7 (4) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.8 commissioner by the Minnesota School Boards Association;

2.9 (5) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.10 commissioner by the Association of Metropolitan School Districts;

2.11 (6) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.12 commissioner by the Minnesota Rural Education Association;

2.13 (7) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.14 commissioner by the Schools for Equity in Education;

2.15 (8) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.16 commissioner by the service cooperatives;

2.17 (9) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.18 commissioner by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators;

2.19 (10) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.20 commissioner by Minnesota Educational Media Organization;

2.21 (11) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.22 commission by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and

2.23 (12) one member from a list of school technology experts submitted to the
2.24 commissioner by the president of the University of Minnesota.

2.25 The commissioner of education shall provide necessary materials and assistance to
2.26 the task force.

2.27 Subd. 4. **Task force recommendations.** The task force must submit a report to the
2.28 education committees of the legislature by January 15, 2008, describing the minimum
2.29 technology standards that it has established. The commissioner of education must use
2.30 these recommendations and standards when awarding grants under section 2.

2.31 Subd. 5. **Rulemaking.** The commissioner must adopt rules under Minnesota
2.32 Statutes, section 14.389, subdivision 5, to implement the recommendations for standards,
2.33 assessments, records, frameworks, policies, procedures, databases, systems, capacity, and
2.34 other recommendations of the school technology task force.

2.35 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.**

Subdivision 1. Establishment; eligibility. A school technology grant program is established to assist school districts, consortiums of school districts, and charter schools to achieve the technology standards established under section 1. School districts, consortiums of districts, and charter schools eligible to participate under this section must submit to the commissioner an approved district technology plan that describes how the district, consortium of districts, or charter school will meet the goals and standards of the task force. The commissioner shall develop a competitive grant process to determine recipients. Districts, consortiums of districts, and charter schools must propose how the grant funds will be used to support the goals described in section 1, subdivision 2, to achieve the following components in rank order by:

(1) obtaining minimum statewide standards of technology infrastructure and capacity;

(2) incorporating student technology content standards within the district curriculum and the professional development necessary for effective instruction of those standards;

(3) developing data-driven decision-making models in the classroom, school, and district; and

(4) developing innovation in student learning and teacher professional development.

Subd. 2. Application and review process; funding priority. A district, a consortium of districts, or a charter school eligible under subdivision 1 may apply to the commissioner, in the form and manner the commissioner determines, for competitive funding to achieve technology standards set by the commissioner. The application must identify, through a commonly used technology audit process that determines the district's, consortium of districts', or charter school's current technology capabilities, the disparity between the district's, consortium of districts', or charter school's current technology infrastructure and capacity and the minimum statewide standards that are established by the commissioner. The application must detail the specific efforts the applicant intends to undertake to achieve the components, consistent with subdivision 1, and a proposed budget detailing the district's, consortium of districts', or charter school's current and proposed expenditures. The proposed budget must demonstrate that the applicant's efforts will support the components in subdivision 1 in rank order. Expenditures for administration must not exceed five percent of the proposed budget. The commissioner may require an applicant to provide additional information. When reviewing applications, the commissioner must determine whether the applicant satisfied all the requirements in this subdivision and subdivision 1. The commissioner may give funding priority to an otherwise qualified applicant that demonstrates:

4.1 (1) previous attempts through district referenda or other funding mechanisms to
4.2 increase its technology infrastructure and capacity;

4.3 (2) an effective plan to focus on closing the disparity between the district's,
4.4 consortium of districts', or charter school's current technology infrastructure and
4.5 capabilities and the minimum statewide technology standards established by the
4.6 commissioner;

4.7 (3) previous efforts to participate in online field testing of statewide assessments; or

4.8 (4) an effective ability to actively involve local business and community
4.9 organizations in efforts to stimulate and promote teacher and student curriculum and
4.10 learning collaboration.

4.11 Subd. 3. **Application review; grant awards.** The commissioner shall award grants
4.12 to applicant school districts, consortiums of districts, and charter schools that meet the
4.13 requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2. The commissioner may award grants as funding
4.14 allows and, to the extent feasible, must distribute the grant awards on an equitable
4.15 geographical basis. The commissioner must base the amount of the grant award on the
4.16 number of students in the participating district or charter school. District expenditures of
4.17 the grant proceeds must be consistent with budget information the grantee periodically
4.18 submits to the commissioner. School districts, consortiums of school districts, and charter
4.19 schools that submit an application and receive funding under this section must use the
4.20 funding, consistent with the components in subdivision 1, as stated in the application. The
4.21 commissioner may spend up to one percent of the appropriation for administering the
4.22 program.

4.23 Subd. 4. **Annual reports.** Each school district, consortium of school districts, and
4.24 charter school that receives a grant under this section must demonstrate and measure the
4.25 extent to which the district, consortium of districts, or charter school achieved the goals
4.26 set forth in the grant application and consistent with section 1, subdivision 2. This report
4.27 is due at the end of the grant period and must be submitted to the commissioner in the
4.28 form and manner the commissioner determines. The commissioner must make summary
4.29 data about this program available to the education policy and finance committees of the
4.30 legislature by February 15, 2010. Each school district, consortium of school districts,
4.31 and charter school that receives a grant under this section annually must report to the
4.32 commissioner, consistent with the uniform financial accounting and reporting standards,
4.33 its actual expenditures for school technology funding. The report must demonstrate that
4.34 the school district, consortium of school districts, or charter school has maintained its
4.35 effort from other sources for technology and capacity compared with the previous fiscal

5.1 year, and the district, consortium of districts, or charter school has expended all grant
5.2 funds, consistent with its approved budget.

5.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

5.4 Sec. 3. **ONLINE LEARNING EXPANSION GRANTS.**

5.5 Subdivision 1. **Outcomes.** The general framework outcomes for expanding online
5.6 learning in education are:

5.7 (1) provide grant funding to encourage expansion and access to online learning
5.8 courses and opportunities for Minnesota students;

5.9 (2) expand academic opportunities, increase graduation rates, increase college
5.10 eligibility and preparedness, and provide online resources for remediation;

5.11 (3) increase the number of students successfully completing online courses; and

5.12 (4) develop innovative online courses or programming.

5.13 Subd. 2. **Establishment; eligibility.** To promote the outcomes of subdivision
5.14 1, a program is established to expand online learning courses and programs to school
5.15 districts, charter schools, consortiums of school districts, intermediate school districts,
5.16 service cooperatives, or higher education institutions. The commissioner shall develop
5.17 a competitive grant process for the purpose of determining recipients. Districts, charter
5.18 schools, consortiums of school districts, intermediate school districts, service cooperatives,
5.19 or higher education institutions must propose to use the grant funds that support the
5.20 outcomes of subdivision 1 in a manner that develops or expands online courses or
5.21 programs in one or more of the following areas:

5.22 (1) dual high school or postsecondary education credit;

5.23 (2) science, technology, engineering, and math fields;

5.24 (3) preadvanced placement, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate; and

5.25 (4) remediation efforts.

5.26 Subd. 3. **Application and review process; funding priority.** Districts, charter
5.27 schools, consortiums of school districts, service cooperatives, intermediate school
5.28 districts, or higher education institutions that are eligible under subdivision 2 may
5.29 apply to the commissioner, in the form and manner the commissioner determines, for
5.30 competitive funding to achieve the grant goals. The application must detail the specific
5.31 efforts the applicant intends to undertake to achieve the components, consistent with
5.32 subdivisions 1 and 2, and propose the budget detailing the district's, charter school's,
5.33 consortiums of school districts', intermediate districts', service cooperative's, or higher
5.34 education institution's current and proposed expenditures. The proposed budget must
5.35 demonstrate that the applicant's efforts will support the components of subdivisions 1 and

2. Expenditures for administration must not exceed five percent of the proposed budget. The commissioner may require an applicant to provide additional information. When reviewing applications, the commissioner must determine whether the applicant satisfied all the requirements in this subdivision and subdivisions 1 and 2.

Subd. 4. **Application review; grant awards.** The commissioner shall award grants to eligible applicants that meet the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2.

The commissioner shall award grants as funding allows and, to the extent feasible, must distribute the grant awards on an equitable geographical basis. The commissioner must base the amount of the grant award on the number of students in the participating district charter school, consortium of school districts, intermediate school, or higher education institutions. Expenditures of the grant proceeds must be consistent with budget information the grantee periodically submits to the commissioner. School districts and charter schools that submit an application and receive funding under this section must use the funding, consistent with the components in subdivisions 1 and 2 as stated in the application. The commissioner may spend up to one percent of the appropriation for administering the program.

Subd. 5. **Annual reports.** Each applicant that receives a grant under this section must demonstrate and measure the extent to which the applicant achieved the outcomes set forth in the grant application and consistent with subdivisions 1 and 2. This report is due at the end of the grant period and must be submitted to the commissioner in the form and manner the commissioner determines. The commissioner must make summary data about this program available to the education policy and finance committees of the legislature by February 15, 2010. Each applicant that receives a grant under this section must annually report to the commissioner, consistent with the uniform financial accounting and reporting standards, its actual expenditures for online learning courses.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for revenue for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATIONS.

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

Subd. 2. **School technology grants.** For school technology grants under section 2:

\$ 60,000,000 2009

This is a onetime appropriation.

7.1 Subd. 3. **Online learning grants.** For online learning grants under section 3:

7.2 \$ 2,500,000 2008

7.3 \$ 2,500,000 2009

7.4 This is a onetime appropriation.

7.5 Subd. 4. **Per pupil technology.** (a) For per pupil technology funding consistent
7.6 with commissioner of education approved district technology plans:

7.7 \$ 40,000,000 2008

7.8 (b) The commissioner must calculate a per pupil technology allowance by dividing
7.9 the appropriation in paragraph (a) by the total number of adjusted marginal cost pupil units
7.10 for fiscal year 2008 and award each district an amount equal to that allowance times each
7.11 district's adjusted marginal cost pupil units for that year.

7.12 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.

7.13 Subd. 5. **Task force expenses.** For expenses of the task force established in section
7.14 1:

7.15 \$ 20,000 2008