A bill for an act

relating to education; providing for prekindergarten through grade 12 education, including general education, education excellence, special programs, libraries, and self-sufficiency and lifelong learning; making technical corrections; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 16A.06, subdivision 11; 120A.40; 120B.02; 120B.021, subdivision 1; 120B.023, subdivision 2; 120B.024; 120B.13, subdivision 1; 120B.30, subdivisions 1, 1a; 120B.31, subdivision 4; 122A.07, subdivisions 2, 3; 122A.31, subdivision 4; 123A.05; 123A.06; 123A.08; 123B.14, subdivision 7; 123B.51, by adding a subdivision; 123B.77, subdivision 3; 123B.81, subdivisions 3, 4, 5; 123B.83, subdivision 3; 124D.095, subdivisions 3, 4, 7, 10; 124D.10; 124D.11, subdivision 9; 124D.128, subdivisions 2, 3; 124D.135, subdivision 3; 124D.15, subdivisions 1, 3, by adding subdivisions; 124D.19, subdivisions 10, 14; 124D.522; 124D.60, subdivision 1; 124D.68, subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5; 125A.11, subdivision 1; 125A.15; 125A.28; 125A.51; 125A.62, subdivision 8; 125A.69, by adding a subdivision; 125A.744, subdivision 3; 125A.76, subdivision 1; 126C.05, subdivisions 2, 15, 20; 126C.10, subdivision 34; 126C.15, subdivisions 2, 4; 126C.40, subdivision 6; 126C.44; 127A.08, by adding a subdivision; 127A.47, subdivisions 5, 7; 134.31, subdivision 4a, by adding a subdivision; 299A.297; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 120B; 124D; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 121A.27; 124D.13, subdivision 13.

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

ARTICLE 1
GENERAL EDUCATION

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 16A.06, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. **Permanent school fund reporting.** The commissioner shall biannually report to the Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee and the legislature ~~on the management of the permanent school trust fund that shows how the commissioner~~ the amount of the permanent school fund transfer and information about the investment of the permanent school fund provided by the State Board of Investment. The State Board of

Investment shall provide information about how they maximized the long-term economic return of the permanent school ~~trust~~ fund.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120A.40, is amended to read:

120A.40 SCHOOL CALENDAR.

(a) Except for learning programs during summer, flexible learning year programs authorized under sections 124D.12 to 124D.127, and learning year programs under section 124D.128, a district must not commence an elementary or secondary school year before Labor Day, except as provided under paragraph (b). Days devoted to teachers' workshops may be held before Labor Day. Districts that enter into cooperative agreements are encouraged to adopt similar school calendars.

(b) A district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day:

(1) to accommodate a construction or remodeling project of $400,000 or more affecting a district school facility~~.~~;

(2) if the district has an agreement under section 123A.30, 123A.32, or 123A.35 with a district that qualifies under clause (1); or

~~A school~~ (3) if the district ~~that~~ agrees to the same schedule with a school district in an adjoining state ~~also may begin the school year before Labor Day as authorized under this paragraph~~.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.77, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Statement for comparison and correction.** (a) By November 30 of the calendar year of the submission of the unaudited financial data, the district must provide to the commissioner audited financial data for the preceding fiscal year. The audit must be conducted in compliance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards, the federal Single Audit Act, and the Minnesota legal compliance guide issued by the Office of the State Auditor. An audited financial statement prepared in a form which will allow comparison with and correction of material differences in the unaudited financial data shall be submitted to the commissioner and the state auditor by December 31. The audited financial statement must also provide a statement of assurance pertaining to uniform financial accounting and reporting standards compliance and a copy of the management letter submitted to the district by the school district's auditor.

(b) By ~~January~~ February 15 of the calendar year following the submission of the unaudited financial data, the commissioner shall convert the audited financial data required by this subdivision into the consolidated financial statement format required under subdivision 1a and publish the information on the department's Web site.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.83, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Failure to limit expenditures.** If a district does not limit its expenditures in accordance with this section, the commissioner may so notify the appropriate committees of the legislature by no later than ~~January 1~~ February 15 of the year following the end of that fiscal year.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Nonresident tuition rate; other costs.** (a) For fiscal year 2006, when a school district provides instruction and services outside the district of residence, board and lodging, and any tuition to be paid, shall be paid by the district of residence. The tuition rate to be charged for any child with a disability, excluding a pupil for whom tuition is calculated according to section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraph (d), must be the sum of (1) the actual cost of providing special instruction and services to the child including a proportionate amount for special transportation and unreimbursed building lease and debt service costs for facilities used primarily for special education, plus (2) the amount of general education revenue and referendum aid attributable to the pupil, minus (3) the amount of special education aid for children with a disability received on behalf of that child, minus (4) if the pupil receives special instruction and services outside the regular classroom for more than 60 percent of the school day, the amount of general education revenue and referendum aid, excluding portions attributable to district and school administration, district support services, operations and maintenance, capital expenditures, and pupil transportation, attributable to that pupil for the portion of time the pupil receives special instruction and services outside of the regular classroom. If the boards involved do not agree upon the tuition rate, either board may apply to the commissioner to fix the rate. Notwithstanding chapter 14, the commissioner must then set a date for a hearing or request a written statement from each board, giving each board at least ten days' notice, and after the hearing or review of the written statements the commissioner must make an order fixing the tuition rate, which is binding on both school districts. General education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to a pupil must be calculated using the resident district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid per adjusted pupil unit.

(b) For fiscal year 2007 and later, when a school district provides special instruction and services for a pupil with a disability as defined in section 125A.02 outside the district of residence, excluding a pupil for whom an adjustment to special education aid is calculated according to section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraph (e), special education aid paid to the resident district must be reduced by an amount equal to (1) the actual

cost of providing special instruction and services to the pupil, including a proportionate amount for special transportation and unreimbursed building lease and debt service costs for facilities used primarily for special education, plus (2) the amount of general education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to that pupil, calculated using the resident district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid per adjusted pupil unit excluding basic skills revenue, elementary sparsity revenue and secondary sparsity revenue, minus (3) the amount of special education aid for children with a disability received on behalf of that child, minus (4) if the pupil receives special instruction and services outside the regular classroom for more than 60 percent of the school day, the amount of general education revenue and referendum equalization aid, excluding portions attributable to district and school administration, district support services, operations and maintenance, capital expenditures, and pupil transportation, attributable to that pupil for the portion of time the pupil receives special instruction and services outside of the regular classroom, calculated using the resident district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid per adjusted pupil unit excluding basic skills revenue, elementary sparsity revenue and secondary sparsity revenue and the serving district's basic skills revenue, elementary sparsity revenue and secondary sparsity revenue per adjusted pupil unit. Notwithstanding clauses (1) and (4), for pupils served by a cooperative unit without a fiscal agent school district, the general education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to a pupil must be calculated using the resident district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid excluding compensatory revenue, elementary sparsity revenue, and secondary sparsity revenue. Special education aid paid to the district or cooperative providing special instruction and services for the pupil must be increased by the amount of the reduction in the aid paid to the resident district. Amounts paid to cooperatives under this subdivision and section 127A.47, subdivision 7, shall be recognized and reported as revenues and expenditures on the resident school district's books of account under sections 123B.75 and 123B.76. If the resident district's special education aid is insufficient to make the full adjustment, the remaining adjustment shall be made to other state aid due to the district.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) and section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraphs (d) and (e), a charter school where more than 30 percent of enrolled students receive special education and related services, a site approved under section 125A.515, an intermediate district, a special education cooperative, or a school district that served as the applicant agency for a group of school districts for federal special education aids for fiscal year 2006 may apply to the commissioner for authority to charge the resident district an additional amount to recover any remaining unreimbursed costs of serving

pupils with a disability. The application must include a description of the costs and the calculations used to determine the unreimbursed portion to be charged to the resident district. Amounts approved by the commissioner under this paragraph must be included in the tuition billings or aid adjustments under paragraph (a) or (b), or section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraph (d) or (e), as applicable.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision and section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraphs (d) and (e), "general education revenue and referendum equalization aid" means the sum of the general education revenue according to section 126C.10, subdivision 1, excluding alternative teacher compensation revenue, plus the referendum equalization aid according to section 126C.17, subdivision 7, as adjusted according to section 127A.47, subdivision 7, paragraphs (a) to (c).

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Foreign exchange pupils.** Notwithstanding section 124D.02, subdivision 3, or any other law to the contrary, a foreign exchange pupil enrolled in a district under a cultural exchange program registered with the Office of the Secretary of State under section 5A.02 may be counted as a resident pupil for the purposes of this chapter and chapters 120B, 122A, 123A, 123B, 124D, 125A, and 127A, even if the pupil has graduated from high school or the equivalent.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.15, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Building allocation.** (a) A district must allocate its compensatory revenue to each school building in the district where the children who have generated the revenue are served unless the school district has received permission under Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 5, article 1, section 50, to allocate compensatory revenue according to student performance measures developed by the school board.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a district may allocate up to five percent of the amount of compensatory revenue that the district receives to school sites according to a plan adopted by the school board. The money reallocated under this paragraph must be spent for the purposes listed in subdivision 1, but may be spent on students in any grade, including students attending school readiness or other prekindergarten programs.

(c) For the purposes of this section and section 126C.05, subdivision 3, "building" means education site as defined in section 123B.04, subdivision 1.

(d) ~~If the pupil is served at a site other than one owned and operated by the district, the revenue shall be paid to the district and used for services for pupils who generate~~

~~the revenue~~ Notwithstanding section 123A. 26, subdivision 1, compensatory revenue generated by students served at a cooperative unit shall be paid to the cooperative unit.

(e) A district with school building openings, school building closings, changes in attendance area boundaries, or other changes in programs or student demographics between the prior year and the current year may reallocate compensatory revenue among sites to reflect these changes. A district must report to the department any adjustments it makes according to this paragraph and the department must use the adjusted compensatory revenue allocations in preparing the report required under section 123B.76, subdivision 3, paragraph (c).

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.15, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Separate accounts.** Each district and cooperative unit that receives basic skills revenue shall maintain separate accounts to identify expenditures for salaries and programs related to basic skills revenue.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.40, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Lease purchase; installment buys.** (a) Upon application to, and approval by, the commissioner in accordance with the procedures and limits in subdivision 1, paragraphs (a) and (b), a district, as defined in this subdivision, may:

(1) purchase real or personal property under an installment contract or may lease real or personal property with an option to purchase under a lease purchase agreement, by which installment contract or lease purchase agreement title is kept by the seller or vendor or assigned to a third party as security for the purchase price, including interest, if any; and

(2) annually levy the amounts necessary to pay the district's obligations under the installment contract or lease purchase agreement.

(b) The obligation created by the installment contract or the lease purchase agreement must not be included in the calculation of net debt for purposes of section 475.53, and does not constitute debt under other law. An election is not required in connection with the execution of the installment contract or the lease purchase agreement.

(c) The proceeds of the levy authorized by this subdivision must not be used to acquire a facility to be primarily used for athletic or school administration purposes.

(d) For the purposes of this subdivision, "district" means:

(1) a racially isolated school district or a school district with a racially identifiable school required to have a ~~comprehensive~~ desegregation or integration plan ~~for the elimination of segregation~~ which is eligible for revenue under section 124D.86, subdivision 3, clause (1), (2), or (3), and whose plan has been determined by the

commissioner to be in compliance with Department of Education rules relating to equality of educational opportunity and school desegregation and, for a district eligible for revenue under section 124D.86, subdivision 3, clause (4) or (5), where the acquisition of property under this subdivision is determined by the commissioner to contribute to the implementation of the desegregation plan; or

(2) a school district that participates in a joint program for interdistrict desegregation with a district defined in clause (1) if the facility acquired under this subdivision is to be primarily used for the joint program and the commissioner determines that the joint programs are being undertaken to implement the districts' desegregation plan.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision 1, the prohibition against a levy by a district to lease or rent a district-owned building to itself does not apply to levies otherwise authorized by this subdivision.

(f) For the purposes of this subdivision, any references in subdivision 1 to building or land shall include personal property.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.44, is amended to read:

126C.44 SAFE SCHOOLS LEVY.

(a) Each district may make a levy on all taxable property located within the district for the purposes specified in this section. The maximum amount which may be levied for all costs under this section shall be equal to $30 multiplied by the district's adjusted marginal cost pupil units for the school year. The proceeds of the levy must be reserved and used for directly funding the following purposes or for reimbursing the cities and counties who contract with the district for the following purposes: (1) to pay the costs incurred for the salaries, benefits, and transportation costs of peace officers and sheriffs for liaison in services in the district's schools; (2) to pay the costs for a drug abuse prevention program as defined in section 609.101, subdivision 3, paragraph (e), in the elementary schools; (3) to pay the costs for a gang resistance education training curriculum in the district's schools; (4) to pay the costs for security in the district's schools and on school property; (5) to pay the costs for other crime prevention, drug abuse, student and staff safety, voluntary opt-in suicide prevention tools, and violence prevention measures taken by the school district; or (6) to pay costs for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and chemical dependency counselors to help provide early responses to problems. For expenditures under clause (1), the district must initially attempt to contract for services to be provided by peace officers or sheriffs with the police department of each city or the sheriff's department of the county within the district containing the school receiving the services. If

a local police department or a county sheriff's department does not wish to provide the necessary services, the district may contract for these services with any other police or sheriff's department located entirely or partially within the school district's boundaries.

(b) A school district that is a member of an intermediate school district may include in its authority under this section the costs associated with safe schools activities authorized under paragraph (a) for intermediate school district programs. This authority must not exceed $10 times the adjusted marginal cost pupil units of the member districts. This authority is in addition to any other authority authorized under this section. Revenue raised under this paragraph must be transferred to the intermediate school district.

(c) A school district must set aside at least $3 per adjusted marginal cost pupil unit of the safe schools levy proceeds for the purposes authorized under paragraph (a), clause (6). ~~The district must annually certify that its total spending on services provided by the employees listed in paragraph (a), clause (6), is not less than the sum of its expenditures for these purposes, excluding amounts spent under this section, in the previous year plus the amount spent under this section.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2010 and later.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 127A.47, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Alternative attendance programs.** The general education aid and special education aid for districts must be adjusted for each pupil attending a nonresident district under sections 123A.05 to 123A.08, 124D.03, 124D.08, and 124D.68. The adjustments must be made according to this subdivision.

(a) General education aid paid to a resident district must be reduced by an amount equal to the referendum equalization aid attributable to the pupil in the resident district.

(b) General education aid paid to a district serving a pupil in programs listed in this subdivision must be increased by an amount equal to the greater of (1) the referendum equalization aid attributable to the pupil in the nonresident district; or (2) the product of the district's open enrollment concentration index, the maximum amount of referendum revenue in the first tier, and the district's net open enrollment pupil units for that year. A district's open enrollment concentration index equals the greater of: (i) zero, or (ii) the lesser of 1.0, or the difference between the district's ratio of open enrollment pupil units served to its resident pupil units for that year and 0.2. This clause does not apply to a school district where more than 50 percent of the open enrollment students are enrolled solely in online learning courses.

(c) If the amount of the reduction to be made from the general education aid of the resident district is greater than the amount of general education aid otherwise due the district, the excess reduction must be made from other state aids due the district.

(d) For fiscal year 2006, the district of residence must pay tuition to a district or an area learning center, operated according to paragraph (f), providing special instruction and services to a pupil with a disability, as defined in section 125A.02, or a pupil, as defined in section 125A.51, who is enrolled in a program listed in this subdivision. The tuition must be equal to (1) the actual cost of providing special instruction and services to the pupil, including a proportionate amount for special transportation and unreimbursed building lease and debt service costs for facilities used primarily for special education, minus (2) if the pupil receives special instruction and services outside the regular classroom for more than 60 percent of the school day, the amount of general education revenue and referendum aid attributable to that pupil for the portion of time the pupil receives special instruction and services outside of the regular classroom, excluding portions attributable to district and school administration, district support services, operations and maintenance, capital expenditures, and pupil transportation, minus (3) special education aid attributable to that pupil, that is received by the district providing special instruction and services. For purposes of this paragraph, general education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to a pupil must be calculated using the serving district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid per adjusted pupil unit.

(e) For fiscal year 2007 and later, special education aid paid to a resident district must be reduced by an amount equal to (1) the actual cost of providing special instruction and services, including special transportation and unreimbursed building lease and debt service costs for facilities used primarily for special education, for a pupil with a disability, as defined in section 125A.02, or a pupil, as defined in section 125A.51, who is enrolled in a program listed in this subdivision, minus (2) if the pupil receives special instruction and services outside the regular classroom for more than 60 percent of the school day, the amount of general education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to that pupil for the portion of time the pupil receives special instruction and services outside of the regular classroom, excluding portions attributable to district and school administration, district support services, operations and maintenance, capital expenditures, and pupil transportation, minus (3) special education aid attributable to that pupil, that is received by the district providing special instruction and services. For purposes of this paragraph, general education revenue and referendum equalization aid attributable to a pupil must be calculated using the serving district's average general education revenue and referendum equalization aid per adjusted pupil unit. Special education aid paid to the

district or cooperative providing special instruction and services for the pupil, or to the fiscal agent district for a cooperative, must be increased by the amount of the reduction in the aid paid to the resident district. If the resident district's special education aid is insufficient to make the full adjustment, the remaining adjustment shall be made to other state aids due to the district.

(f) An area learning center operated by a service cooperative, intermediate district, education district, or a joint powers cooperative may elect through the action of the constituent boards to charge the resident district tuition for pupils rather than to have the general education revenue paid to a fiscal agent school district. Except as provided in paragraph (d) or (e), the district of residence must pay tuition equal to at least 90 percent of the district average general education revenue per pupil unit minus an amount equal to the product of the formula allowance according to section 126C.10, subdivision 2, times .0485, calculated without ~~basic skills~~ compensatory revenue and transportation sparsity revenue, times the number of pupil units for pupils attending the area learning center~~, plus the amount of compensatory revenue generated by pupils attending the area learning center~~.

ARTICLE 2
EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.023, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Revisions and reviews required.** (a) The commissioner of education must revise and appropriately embed technology and information literacy standards consistent with recommendations from school media specialists into the state's academic standards and graduation requirements and implement a review cycle for state academic standards and related benchmarks, consistent with this subdivision. During each review cycle, the commissioner also must examine the alignment of each required academic standard and related benchmark with the knowledge and skills students need for college readiness and advanced work in the particular subject area.

(b) The commissioner in the 2006-2007 school year must revise and align the state's academic standards and high school graduation requirements in mathematics to require that students satisfactorily complete the revised mathematics standards, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Under the revised standards:

(1) students must satisfactorily complete an algebra I credit by the end of eighth grade; and

(2) students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later must satisfactorily complete an algebra II credit or its equivalent.

The commissioner also must ensure that the statewide mathematics assessments administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 beginning in the 2010-2011 school year are aligned with the state academic standards in mathematics. The statewide 11th grade mathematics test administered to students under clause (2) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year must include algebra II test items that are aligned with corresponding state academic standards in mathematics. The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in mathematics beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

(c) The commissioner in the 2007-2008 school year must revise and align the state's academic standards and high school graduation requirements in the arts to require that students satisfactorily complete the revised arts standards beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in arts beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

(d) The commissioner in the 2008-2009 school year must revise and align the state's academic standards and high school graduation requirements in science to require that students satisfactorily complete the revised science standards, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. The commissioner also must ensure that the statewide science assessments administered to students as described under section 120B.30, subdivision 1a, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year are aligned with the state academic standards in science. Under the revised standards, students scheduled to graduate in the 2014-2015 school year or later must satisfactorily complete a chemistry or physics credit. The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in science beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

(e) The commissioner in the 2009-2010 school year must revise and align the state's academic standards and high school graduation requirements in language arts to require that students satisfactorily complete the revised language arts standards beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The commissioner also must ensure that the statewide language arts assessments administered to students beginning in the 2012-2013 school year are aligned with the state academic standards in language arts. The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in language arts beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

(f) The commissioner in the 2010-2011 school year must revise and align the state's academic standards and high school graduation requirements in social studies to require that students satisfactorily complete the revised social studies standards beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The commissioner must implement a review of the academic standards and related benchmarks in social studies beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

(g) School districts and charter schools must revise and align local academic standards and high school graduation requirements in health, physical education, world languages, and career and technical education to require students to complete the revised standards beginning in a school year determined by the school district or charter school. School districts and charter schools must formally establish a periodic review cycle for the academic standards and related benchmarks in health, physical education, world languages, and career and technical education.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.024, is amended to read:

120B.024 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; COURSE CREDITS.

(a) Students beginning 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year and later must successfully complete the following high school level course credits for graduation:

(1) four credits of language arts;

(2) three credits of mathematics, encompassing at least algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability sufficient to satisfy the academic standard;

(3) three credits of science, including at least one credit in biology;

(4) three and one-half credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics or three credits of social studies encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, and world history, and one-half credit of economics taught in a school's social studies, agriculture education, or business department;

(5) one credit in the arts; and

(6) a minimum of seven elective course credits.

A course credit is equivalent to a student successfully completing an academic year of study or a student mastering the applicable subject matter <u>of the state academic standards or local academic standards where state standards do not apply</u>, as determined by the local school district.

(b) An agriculture science course may fulfill a science credit requirement in addition to the specified science credits in biology and chemistry or physics under paragraph (a), clause (3).

(c) A career and technical education course may fulfill a science, mathematics, or arts credit requirement in addition to the specified science, mathematics, or arts credits under paragraph (a), clause (2), (3), or (5).

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.13, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Program structure; training programs for teachers.** (a) The advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs are well-established academic programs for mature, academically directed high school students. These programs, in addition to providing academic rigor, offer sound curricular design, accountability, comprehensive external assessment, feedback to students and teachers, and the opportunity for high school students to compete academically on a global level. Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs allow students to leave high school with the academic skills and self-confidence to succeed in college and beyond. The advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs help provide Minnesota students with world-class educational opportunity.

(b) Critical to schools' educational success is ongoing advanced placement/international baccalaureate-approved teacher training. A secondary teacher assigned by a district to teach an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course or other interested educator may participate in a training program offered by The College Board or International Baccalaureate North America, Inc. The state may pay a portion of the tuition, room, board, and out-of-state travel costs a teacher or other interested educator incurs in participating in a training program. The commissioner shall determine application procedures and deadlines, select teachers and other interested educators to participate in the training program, and determine the payment process and amount of the subsidy. The procedures determined by the commissioner shall, to the extent possible, ensure that advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses become available in all parts of the state and that a variety of course offerings are available in school districts. This subdivision does not prevent teacher or other interested educator participation in training programs offered by The College Board or International Baccalaureate North America, Inc., when tuition is paid by a source other than the state.

(c) The commissioner may award state-funded competitive grants designed to create advanced placement summer training institutes for secondary teachers. Two-year grants, beginning and ending on October 1, may be awarded to Minnesota institutions of higher education that comply with the training requirements outlined by The College Board. The commissioner shall determine award criteria and the selection process.

Sec. 4. **[120B.17] WORLD LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES.**

(a) Any Minnesota public, charter, or private school may award Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificates or Minnesota World Language Proficiency High Achievement Certificates.

(b) The Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate recognizes students who demonstrate both oral and written language skills at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' Intermediate-Low level on a valid and reliable assessment tool. For languages listed as Category 3 by the United States Foreign Service Institute or Category 4 by the United States Defense Language Institute, the standard is Intermediate-Low for listening and speaking and Novice-High for reading and writing.

(c) The Minnesota World Language Proficiency High Achievement Certificate recognizes students who demonstrated both oral and written language skills at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' Pre-Advanced level for K-12 learners on a valid and reliable assessment tool. For languages listed as Category 3 by the United States Foreign Service Institute or Category 4 by the United States Defense Language Institute, the standard is Pre-Advanced for listening and speaking and Intermediate-Mid for reading and writing.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.30, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Statewide testing.** (a) The commissioner, with advice from experts with appropriate technical qualifications and experience and stakeholders, consistent with subdivision 1a, shall include in the comprehensive assessment system, for each grade level to be tested, state-constructed tests developed from and aligned with the state's required academic standards under section 120B.021 and administered annually to all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level in mathematics and reading. A state-developed test in a subject other than writing, developed after the 2002-2003 school year, must include both ~~machine-scoreable~~ multiple-choice and constructed response questions. The commissioner shall establish one or more months during which schools shall administer the tests to students each school year. Schools selected for stand-alone state field testing or other national sampling by the department must participate as requested. Superintendents or charter school directors may appeal in writing to the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee for exemption from a selected field test if undue hardship is demonstrated. The commissioner's decision regarding the appeal is final.

(b) For students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year, ~~only~~ Minnesota basic skills tests in reading, mathematics, and writing shall fulfill students' basic skills testing requirements for a passing state notation. The passing scores of basic skills tests in reading and mathematics are the equivalent of 75 percent correct for students entering grade 9 in 1997 and thereafter, as based on the first uniform test administration of February 1998. Students who have not successfully passed the basic skills test by the

end of the 2011-2012 school year must pass the graduation assessment requirements for Minnesota students given at that time.

~~(b)~~ (c) For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later, only the following options shall fulfill students' state graduation test requirements:

(1) for reading and mathematics:

(i) obtaining an achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the Minnesota comprehensive assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the graduation-required assessment for diploma in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or subsequent retests;

(ii) achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified language proficiency test in reading and the mathematics test for English language learners or the graduation-required assessment for diploma equivalent of those assessments for students designated as English language learners;

(iii) achieving an individual passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan or 504 plan;

(iv) obtaining achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics for students with an individual education plan; or

(v) achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan; and

(2) for writing:

(i) achieving a passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma;

(ii) achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified language proficiency test in writing for students designated as English language learners;

(iii) achieving an individual passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan or 504 plan; or

(iv) achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan.

~~(c)~~ (d) The 3rd through 8th grade and high school level test results shall be available to districts for diagnostic purposes affecting student learning and district instruction and curriculum, and for establishing educational accountability. The commissioner must disseminate to the public the test results upon receiving those results.

~~(d)~~ (e) State tests must be constructed and aligned with state academic standards. The testing process and the order of administration shall be determined by the commissioner. The statewide results shall be aggregated at the site and district level, consistent with subdivision 1a.

~~(e)~~ (f) In addition to the testing and reporting requirements under this section, the commissioner shall include the following components in the statewide public reporting system:

(1) uniform statewide testing of all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level that provides appropriate, technically sound accommodations, alternate assessments, or exemptions consistent with applicable federal law, only with parent or guardian approval, for those very few students for whom the student's individual education plan team under sections 125A.05 and 125A.06 determines that the general statewide test is inappropriate for a student, or for a limited English proficiency student under section 124D.59, subdivision 2;

(2) educational indicators that can be aggregated and compared across school districts and across time on a statewide basis, including average daily attendance, high school graduation rates, and high school drop-out rates by age and grade level;

(3) state results on the American College Test; and

(4) state results from participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress so that the state can benchmark its performance against the nation and other states, and, where possible, against other countries, and contribute to the national effort to monitor achievement.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.30, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Statewide and local assessments; results.** (a) The commissioner must develop reading, mathematics, and science assessments aligned with state academic standards that districts and sites must use to monitor student growth toward achieving those standards. The commissioner must not develop statewide assessments for academic standards in social studies, health and physical education, and the arts. The commissioner must require:

(1) annual reading and mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level for the 2005-2006 school year and later; and

(2) annual science assessments in one grade in the grades 3 through 5 span, the grades 6 through ~~9~~ 8 span, and a life sciences assessment in the grades ~~10~~ 9 through 12 span for the 2007-2008 school year and later.

(b) The commissioner must ensure that all statewide tests administered to elementary and secondary students measure students' academic knowledge and skills and not students' values, attitudes, and beliefs.

(c) Reporting of assessment results must:

(1) provide timely, useful, and understandable information on the performance of individual students, schools, school districts, and the state;

(2) include, by no later than the 2008-2009 school year, a value-added component that is in addition to a measure for student achievement growth over time; and

(3)(i) for students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year, determine whether students have met the state's basic skills requirements; and

(ii) for students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later, determine whether students have met the state's academic standards.

(d) Consistent with applicable federal law and subdivision 1, paragraph (d), clause (1), the commissioner must include appropriate, technically sound accommodations or alternative assessments for the very few students with disabilities for whom statewide assessments are inappropriate and for students with limited English proficiency.

(e) A school, school district, and charter school must administer statewide assessments under this section, as the assessments become available, to evaluate student progress in achieving the academic standards. If a state assessment is not available, a school, school district, and charter school must determine locally if a student has met the required academic standards. A school, school district, or charter school may use a student's performance on a statewide assessment as one of multiple criteria to determine grade promotion or retention. A school, school district, or charter school may use a high school student's performance on a statewide assessment as a percentage of the student's final grade in a course, or place a student's assessment score on the student's transcript.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 122A.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Eligibility; board composition.** Except for the representatives of higher education and the public, to be eligible for appointment to the Board of Teaching a person must be a teacher currently teaching in a Minnesota school and fully licensed for the position held and have at least five years teaching experience in Minnesota, including the two years immediately preceding nomination and appointment. Each nominee, other than

a public nominee, must be selected on the basis of professional experience and knowledge of teacher education, accreditation, and licensure. The board must be composed of:

(1) six teachers who are currently teaching in a Minnesota school or who were teaching at the time of the appointment, at least four of whom must be teaching in a public school;

(2) one higher education representative, who must be a faculty member preparing teachers;

(3) one school administrator; and

(4) three members of the public, two of whom must be present or former members of school boards.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 122A.07, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Vacant position.** With the exception of a teacher who retires from teaching during the course of completing a board term, the position of a member who leaves Minnesota or whose employment status changes to a category different from that from which appointed is deemed vacant.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123A.05, is amended to read:

123A.05 ~~AREA LEARNING CENTER~~ STATE-APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION.

Subdivision 1. **Governance.** (a) A district may establish an area learning center ~~either by itself or in cooperation with other districts~~, alternative learning program, or contract alternative in accordance with sections 124D.68, subdivision 3, paragraph (d), and 124D.69.

(b) An area learning center is encouraged to cooperate with a service cooperative, an intermediate school district, a local education and employment transitions partnership, public and private secondary and postsecondary institutions, public agencies, businesses, and foundations. Except for a district located in a city of the first class, ~~a~~ an area learning center must be established in cooperation with other districts and must serve the geographic area of at least two districts. An area learning center must provide comprehensive educational services to enrolled secondary students throughout the year, including a daytime school within a school or separate site for both high school and middle school level students.

(c) An alternative learning program may serve the students of one or more districts, may designate which grades are served, and may make program hours and a calendar optional.

(d) A contract alternative is an alternative learning program operated by a private organization that has contracted with a school district to provide educational services for students under section 124D.68, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Reserve revenue.** Each district that is a member of an area learning center or alternative learning program must reserve revenue in an amount equal to the sum of (1) at least 90 percent of the district average general education revenue per pupil unit minus an amount equal to the product of the formula allowance according to section 126C.10, subdivision 2, times .0485, calculated without basic skills revenue and transportation sparsity revenue, times the number of pupil units attending an area learning center or alternative learning program under this section, plus (2) the amount of basic skills revenue generated by pupils attending the area learning center or alternative learning program. The amount of reserved revenue under this subdivision may only be spent on program costs associated with the area learning center or alternative learning program.

Subd. 3. **Access to services.** A ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program shall have access to the district's regular education programs, special education programs, technology facilities, and staff. It may contract with individuals or postsecondary institutions. It shall seek the involvement of community education programs, postsecondary institutions, interagency collaboratives, culturally based organizations, mutual assistance associations, and other community resources, businesses, and other federal, state, and local public agencies.

Subd. 4. **Nonresident pupils.** A pupil who does not reside in the district may attend a ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program without consent of the school board of the district of residence.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123A.06, is amended to read:

123A.06 ~~CENTER~~ STATE-APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Program focus.** (a) The programs and services of a ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program must focus on academic and learning skills, applied learning opportunities, trade and vocational skills, work-based learning opportunities, work experience, youth service to the community, transition services, and English language and literacy programs for children whose primary language is a language other than English. Applied learning, work-based learning, and service learning may best be developed in collaboration with a local education and transitions partnership, culturally based organizations, mutual assistance associations, or other community resources. In addition to offering programs, the ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program shall

coordinate the use of other available educational services, special education services, social services, health services, and postsecondary institutions in the community and services area.

(b) Consistent with the requirements of sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, a school district may provide an alternative education program for a student who is within the compulsory attendance age under section 120A.20, and who is involved in severe or repeated disciplinary action.

Subd. 2. **People to be served.** A ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program shall provide programs for secondary pupils and adults. A center may also provide programs and services for elementary and secondary pupils who are not attending the ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program to assist them in being successful in school. ~~A center shall use research-based best practices for serving limited English proficient students and their parents.~~ An individual education plan team may identify a ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program as an appropriate placement to the extent a ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program can provide the student with the appropriate special education services described in the student's plan. Pupils eligible to be served are those who qualify under the graduation incentives program in section 124D.68, subdivision 2, those enrolled under section 124D.02, subdivision 2, or those pupils who are eligible to receive special education services under sections 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65.

Subd. 3. **Hours of instruction exemption.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the area learning center programs must be available throughout the entire year. ~~A center may petition the state board under Minnesota Rules, part 3500.1000, for exemption from other rules.~~

Subd. 4. **Granting a diploma.** Upon successful completion of the area learning center program, a pupil is entitled to receive a high school diploma. The pupil may elect to receive a diploma from either the district of residence or the district in which the area learning center is located.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123A.08, is amended to read:

123A.08 ~~CENTER~~ STATE-APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FUNDING.

Subdivision 1. **Outside sources for resources and services.** A ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program may accept:

(1) resources and services from postsecondary institutions serving ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program pupils;

(2) resources from Job Training Partnership Act programs, including funding for jobs skills training for various groups and the percentage reserved for education;

(3) resources from the Department of Human Services and county welfare funding;

(4) resources from a local education and employment transitions partnership; or

(5) private resources, foundation grants, gifts, corporate contributions, and other grants.

Subd. 2. **General education aid.** Payment of general education aid for nonresident pupils enrolled in ~~the center~~ area learning centers and alternative learning programs must be made according to section 127A.47, subdivision 7.

Subd. 3. **Special education revenue.** Payment of special education revenue for nonresident pupils enrolled in the ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program must be made according to section ~~125A.15~~ 127A.47, subdivision 7.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.51, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5a. **Temporary closing.** A school district that proposes to temporarily close a schoolhouse or that intends to lease the facility to another entity for use as a schoolhouse for three or fewer years is not subject to subdivision 5 if the school board holds a public meeting and allows public comment on the schoolhouse's future.

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

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.095, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Authorization; notice; limitations on enrollment.** (a) A student may apply for full-time enrollment in an approved online learning program under section 124D.03, 124D.08 or 124D.10~~, or for supplemental online learning~~. Notwithstanding sections 124D.03, 124D.08, and 124D.10, procedures for enrolling in supplemental online learning shall be as provided in this subdivision. A student age 17 or younger must have the written consent of a parent or guardian to apply. No school district or charter school may prohibit a student from applying to enroll in online learning. In order that a student may enroll in online learning, the student and the student's parents must submit an application to the online learning provider and identify the reason for enrolling in online learning. The online learning provider that accepts a student under this section must within ten days notify the student and the enrolling district in writing if the enrolling district is not the online learning provider. The student and family must notify the online learning provider of their intent to enroll in online learning within ten days of acceptance, at which time the student and parent must sign a statement of assurance that they have reviewed the

online course or program and understand the expectations of online learning enrollment. The online learning provider must notify the enrolling district of the student's ~~enrollment~~ application to enroll in online learning in writing on a form provided by the department.

(b) Supplemental online learning notification to the enrolling district upon student ~~enrollment in~~ application to the online learning ~~program~~ provider will include the courses or program, credits to be awarded, and the start date of online enrollment~~, and confirmation that the courses will meet the student's graduation plan~~. An online learning provider must make available to the enrolling district the course syllabus in a format established by the commissioner that identifies the state standards met by the course, content outline, assessment requirements, expectations for actual teacher contact time, other student-to-teacher communication, and academic support for supplemental online courses taken by students in the enrolling district. Within 15 days after the online learning provider makes information in this paragraph available to the enrolling district, the enrolling district must either confirm or deny to the online provider that the student, parent, or guardian, and enrolling district have agreed the courses meet the enrolling district's graduation requirements. An online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirements at the enrolling district as demonstrated on the online provider's syllabus must be considered to meet the corresponding graduation requirements of the student in the enrolling district. A student may enroll in supplemental online learning courses up to the midpoint of the enrolling district's term. The enrolling district may waive this requirement for special circumstances and upon acceptance by the online provider.

(c) An online learning provider must notify the commissioner that it is delivering online learning and report the number of online learning students it is accepting and the online learning courses and programs it is delivering.

(d) An online learning provider may limit enrollment if the provider's school board or board of directors adopts by resolution specific standards for accepting and rejecting students' applications.

(e) An enrolling district may reduce an online learning student's regular classroom instructional membership in proportion to the student's membership in online learning courses.

(f) The online provider must report or make available individual student progress and credit accumulation to the student, parent or guardian, and enrolling district in a manner specified by the commissioner unless another manner is agreed upon by the enrolling district and the online provider and submitted to the commissioner. The enrolling

district must designate a contact person to assist in the facilitation and monitoring of student progress and credit accumulation towards graduation status.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.095, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Online learning parameters.** (a) An online learning student must receive academic credit for completing the requirements of an online learning course or program. Secondary credits granted to an online learning student must be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of the enrolling district. ~~An online learning provider must make available to the enrolling district the course syllabus, standard alignment, content outline, assessment requirements, and contact information for supplemental online courses taken by students in the enrolling district.~~ The enrolling district must apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including online learning students, and must continue to provide nonacademic services to online learning students. If a student completes an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirement at the enrolling district, that standard or requirement is met. The enrolling district must use the same criteria for accepting online learning credits or courses as it does for accepting credits or courses for transfer students under section 124D.03, subdivision 9. The enrolling district may reduce the course schedule of an online learning student in proportion to the number of online learning courses the student takes from an online learning provider that is not the enrolling district.

(b) An online learning student may:

(1) enroll in supplemental online learning courses during a single school year to a maximum of 50 percent of the student's full schedule of courses per term. A student may exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit if the enrolling district grants permission for supplemental online learning enrollment above the limit, or if an agreement is made between the enrolling district and the online learning provider for instructional services;

(2) complete course work at a grade level that is different from the student's current grade level; and

(3) enroll in additional courses with the online learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for payment of any tuition or course fees.

(c) An online learning student has the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in a school as all other students in the enrolling district. An online learning provider must assist an online learning student whose family qualifies for the education tax credit under section 290.0674 to acquire computer hardware and educational software for online learning purposes.

(d) An enrolling district may offer online learning to its enrolled students. Such online learning does not generate online learning funds under this section. An enrolling district that offers online learning only to its enrolled students is not subject to the reporting requirements or review criteria under subdivision 7. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to enrolled students receiving online learning from an enrolling district. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher with a Minnesota license.

(e) An online learning provider that is not the enrolling district is subject to the reporting requirements and review criteria under subdivision 7. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to online learning students. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher with a Minnesota license. Unless the commissioner grants a waiver, a teacher providing online learning instruction must not instruct more than 40 students in any one online learning course or program.

(f) To enroll in more than 50 percent of the student's full schedule of courses per term in online learning, the student must qualify to exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit under paragraph (b) or apply for enrollment to an approved full-time online learning program following appropriate procedures in subdivision 3, paragraph (a). Full-time online learning students may enroll in classes at a local school per contract for instructional services between the online learning provider and the school district.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.095, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Department of Education.** (a) The department must review and certify online learning providers. The online learning courses and programs must be rigorous, aligned with state academic standards, and contribute to grade progression in a single subject. ~~Online learning providers must demonstrate to the commissioner that online learning courses have equivalent standards or instruction, curriculum, and assessment requirements as other courses offered to enrolled students. The online learning provider must also demonstrate expectations for actual teacher contact time or other student-to-teacher communication.~~ The online provider must provide written assurance that: (1) all courses meet state academic standards; and (2) the online learning curriculum, instruction, and assessment, expectations for actual teacher-contact time or other student-to-teacher communication, and academic support meet nationally recognized

professional standards and are demonstrated as such in a syllabus provided according to the commissioner's requirements. Once an online learning provider is approved under this paragraph, all of its online learning course offerings are eligible for payment under this section unless a course is successfully challenged by an enrolling district or the department under paragraph (b).

(b) An enrolling district may challenge the validity of a course offered by an online learning provider. The department must review such challenges based on the certification procedures under paragraph (a). The department may initiate its own review of the validity of an online learning course offered by an online learning provider.

(c) The department may collect a fee not to exceed $250 for certifying online learning providers or $50 per course for reviewing a challenge by an enrolling district.

(d) The department must develop, publish, and maintain a list of approved online learning providers and online learning courses and programs that it has reviewed and certified.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.095, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Online Learning Advisory Council.** (a) An Online Learning Advisory Council is established under section 15.059, except that the term for each council member shall be three years. The advisory council is composed of 12 members from throughout the state who have demonstrated experience with or interest in online learning. The members of the council shall be appointed by the commissioner. The advisory council shall bring to the attention of the commissioner any matters related to online learning and provide input to the department in matters related, but not restricted, to:

(1) quality assurance;

(2) teacher qualifications;

(3) program approval;

(4) special education;

(5) attendance;

(6) program design and requirements; and

(7) fair and equal access to programs.

(b) Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, the Online Learning Advisory Council under this subdivision expires June 30, ~~2008~~ 2013.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective retroactively to June 30, 2008.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.10, is amended to read:

124D.10 CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Subdivision 1. **Purposes.** (a) The purpose of this section is to:

(1) improve pupil learning;

(2) increase learning opportunities for pupils;

(3) encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;

(4) require the measurement of learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes;

(5) establish new forms of accountability for schools; or

(6) create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.

(b) This section does not provide a means to keep open a school that otherwise would be closed. Applicants in these circumstances bear the burden of proving that conversion to a charter school fulfills a purpose specified in this subdivision, independent of the school's closing.

Subd. 2. **Applicability.** This section applies only to charter schools formed and operated under this section.

Subd. 2a. **Charter School Advisory Council.** (a) A Charter School Advisory Council is established ~~under section 15.059 except that~~. The term for each council member ~~shall be~~ is three years. The advisory council is composed of ~~seven~~ nine members ~~from throughout the state who have demonstrated experience with or interest in charter schools. The members of the council shall be appointed by the commissioner. The advisory council shall bring to the attention of the commissioner any matters related to charter schools that the council deems necessary and shall:~~. The members may include charter school authorizers, charter school personnel, public kindergarten through grade 12 teachers, school board members, parents of currently enrolled kindergarten through grade 12 public school students, and school district representatives.

~~(1) encourage school boards to make full use of charter school opportunities;~~

~~(2) encourage the creation of innovative schools;~~

~~(3) provide leadership and support for charter school sponsors to increase the innovation in and the effectiveness, accountability, and fiscal soundness of charter schools;~~

~~(4) serve an ombudsman function in facilitating the operations of new and existing charter schools;~~

~~(5) promote timely financial management training for newly elected members of a charter school board of directors and ongoing training for other members of a charter school board of directors; and~~

~~(6) facilitate compliance with auditing and other reporting requirements. The advisory council shall refer all its proposals to the commissioner who shall provide time for reports from the council.~~

The commissioner shall appoint the council members. The commissioner shall consider geographic balance when appointing council members. The advisory council shall advise and make recommendations to the commissioner on authorizing charter schools and other charter school matters, including:

(1) approving, reviewing, and disciplining authorizers consistent with this section;

(2) supporting innovation, effectiveness, accountability, and fiscal soundness;

(3) providing a management training program for administrators and board members;

(4) complying with auditing and other financial reporting requirements; and

(5) reviewing new applications and proposed grade and program expansions.

(b) The Charter School Advisory Council under this subdivision expires June 30, ~~2007~~ 2015.

Subd. 3. ~~**Sponsor**~~ **Authorizer.** (a) The following organizations may authorize one or more charter schools:

(1) a school board; intermediate school district school board; education district organized under sections 123A.15 to 123A.19;

(2) a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, excluding a house of worship and any person other than a natural person that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the house of worship, that:

(i) is a member of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits or the Minnesota Council on Foundations~~.~~;

(ii) is registered with the attorney general's office~~, and~~;

(iii) reports an end-of-year fund balance of at least $2,000,000; and

(iv) resides in the state of Minnesota;

(3) a Minnesota private college that grants two- or four-year degrees and is registered with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education under chapter 136A; community college, state university, or technical college~~,~~ governed by the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; or the University of Minnesota ~~may sponsor one or more charter schools.~~; or

~~(b)~~ (4) a nonprofit corporation subject to chapter 317A, described in section 317A.905, and exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, may ~~sponsor~~ authorize one or more charter schools if the charter

school has operated for at least three years under a different ~~sponsor~~ authorizer and if the nonprofit corporation has existed for at least 25 years.

(b) An eligible authorizer under this subdivision must apply to the commissioner for approval as an authorizer before submitting an affidavit to the commissioner to charter a school. The application for approval as a charter school authorizer must demonstrate the applicant's ability to implement the procedures and satisfy the criteria for chartering a school under this section. The commissioner must approve or disapprove an application within 60 days of receiving the application. The commissioner, in establishing criteria for approval, must consider the applicant's ability to:

(1) establish an application process for a charter school board that includes timelines, requirements, and expectations;

(2) use precisely defined, rigorous criteria to evaluate the educational, organizational, and fiscal plans of a charter school board;

(3) define in the chartering agreement the rights and responsibilities of the charter school board for governing the school's educational program, controlling funds, and making school management decisions;

(4) implement an accountability system that provides valid, reliable, timely, and accessible data to the authorizer on the ability of the charter school board to satisfy its academic, organizational, legal, and fiscal responsibilities;

(5) follow a detailed process for renewing the chartering agreement that reflects the agreed upon rights and responsibilities of the authorizer and the charter school board, and is consistent with this section; and

(6) base a decision to renew a chartering agreement on credible evidence that demonstrates the academic, organizational, and financial competency of the charter school and its board, including their success in increasing student achievement and meeting the goals of the chartering agreement.

(c) The authorizer must participate in ongoing department-approved training.

(d) An authorizer that chartered a school before August 1, 2009, must apply by June 30, 2012, to the commissioner for approval to continue as an authorizer under this section. An authorizer that fails to submit an application is unable to charter a school.

(e) The commissioner shall review an authorizer's performance every five years in a manner and form determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue a report to the authorizer upon completing the review. If, consistent with this section, the commissioner finds that an authorizer has not performed satisfactorily, the commissioner may subject the authorizer to corrective action, which may include terminating a chartering agreement with the board of a school it authorized.

(f) The commissioner may take corrective action against an authorizer or terminate an authorizer's ability to charter a school for:

(1) failing to satisfy the criteria under which the authorizer was approved;

(2) failing to perform satisfactorily as an approved authorizer; or

(3) violating an element of the chartering agreement between the authorizer and charter school board.

Subd. 4. **Formation of school.** (a) ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer may authorize one or more licensed teachers under section 122A.18, subdivision 1, to operate a charter school subject to approval by the commissioner. ~~A board must vote on charter school application for sponsorship no later than 90 days after receiving the application.~~ The school must be organized and operated as a cooperative under chapter 308A or nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and the provisions under the applicable chapter shall apply to the school except as provided in this section. Notwithstanding sections 465.717 and 465.719, a school district may create a corporation for the purpose of creating a charter school.

(b) Before the operators may ~~form~~ establish and operate a school, the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer must file an affidavit with the commissioner stating its intent to ~~authorize a~~ charter a school. The affidavit must state the terms and conditions under which the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer would ~~authorize a~~ charter a school and how the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer intends to oversee the fiscal and student performance of the charter school and to comply with the terms of the written contract between the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer and the charter school board of directors under subdivision 6. The commissioner must approve or disapprove the ~~sponsor's proposed authorization~~ authorizer's proposed affidavit within ~~90~~ 60 days of receipt of the affidavit. Failure to obtain commissioner approval precludes ~~a sponsor~~ an authorizer from ~~authorizing~~ chartering the ~~charter~~ school that was the subject of the affidavit.

(c) The operators authorized to organize and operate a school, before entering into a contract or other agreement for professional or other services, goods, or facilities, must incorporate as a cooperative under chapter 308A or as a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and must establish a board of directors composed of at least five members who are not related parties as defined in this section until a timely election for members of the charter school board of directors is held according to the school's articles and bylaws. A charter school board of directors must be composed of at least five members who are not related parties as defined in this section. Any staff members who are employed at the school, including teachers providing instruction under a contract with a cooperative, and all parents or legal guardians of children enrolled in the school may participate in the election for members of the school's board of directors. Licensed teachers employed at the

school, including teachers providing instruction under a contract with a cooperative, must be a majority of the members of the board of directors before the school completes its third year of operation, unless the commissioner waives the requirement for a majority of licensed teachers on the board. Board of director meetings must comply with chapter 13D.

(d) Every charter school board member shall attend department-approved training on board governance, the board's role and responsibilities, financial management standards and practices, and employment policies and practices. A board member who does not complete the required training within one year of being appointed to the board is ineligible to continue serving on the board.

(e) The granting or renewal of a charter by ~~a sponsoring entity~~ an authorizer must not be conditioned upon the bargaining unit status of the employees of the school.

~~(c) A sponsor~~ (f) The granting or renewing of a charter by an authorizer must not be contingent on a requirement that the charter school board contract, lease, or purchase goods or services from the authorizer. A party to such an arrangement between an authorizer and a board must disclose the arrangement to the commissioner. The commissioner may terminate a contract for goods or services under this section if the commissioner determines that an arrangement exists.

(g) The charter school shall not offer any services or goods of value to students, parents, or guardians as an inducement, term, or condition of enrolling a student in a charter school.

(h) The authorizer may prevent an approved charter school from opening for operation if, among other grounds, the charter school violates this section.

(i) An authorizer may ~~authorize~~ permit the ~~operators~~ board of directors of a charter school to expand the operation of the charter school to additional sites or to add additional grades at the school beyond those described in the ~~sponsor's application~~ authorizer's affidavit as approved by the commissioner only after submitting a supplemental application to the commissioner in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The supplemental application must provide evidence that:

(1) the expansion ~~of~~ proposed by the charter school is supported by need and projected enrollment;

(2) the expansion of the charter school is supported, at a minimum, by improved academic performance and growth on statewide assessments under chapter 120B;

~~(2)~~ (3) the charter school is fiscally sound;

~~(3)~~ (4) the ~~sponsor supports the~~ charter school has the physical and financial capacity to implement the proposed expansion; and

~~(4)~~ (5) the building of the additional site meets all health and safety requirements to be eligible for lease aid.

~~(f) The commissioner annually must provide timely financial management training to newly elected members of a charter school board of directors and ongoing training to other members of a charter school board of directors. Training must address ways to:~~

~~(1) proactively assess opportunities for a charter school to maximize all available revenue sources;~~

~~(2) establish and maintain complete, auditable records for the charter school;~~

~~(3) establish proper filing techniques;~~

~~(4) document formal actions of the charter school, including meetings of the charter school board of directors;~~

~~(5) properly manage and retain charter school and student records;~~

~~(6) comply with state and federal payroll record-keeping requirements; and~~

~~(7) address other similar factors that facilitate establishing and maintaining complete records on the charter school's operations.~~

Subd. 4a. **Conflict of interest.** (a) ~~A member of a charter school board of directors~~ An individual is prohibited from serving as a member of the board of directors or as an employee or agent of or a contractor with a for-profit entity with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities. A violation of this prohibition renders a contract ~~voidable at the option of the commissioner~~ void. A member of a charter school board of directors who violates this prohibition shall be individually liable to the charter school for any damage caused by the violation.

(b) An individual may serve as a member of the board of directors if no conflict of interest under paragraph (a) exists.

(c) ~~A member of a charter school board of directors that serves as a member of the board of directors or as an employee or agent of or a contractor with a nonprofit entity with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities, must disclose all potential conflicts to the commissioner.~~

~~(d)~~ The conflict of interest provisions under this subdivision do not apply to compensation paid to a teacher employed by the charter school who also serves as a member of the board of directors.

~~(e)~~ (d) The conflict of interest provisions under this subdivision do not apply to a teacher who provides services to a charter school through a cooperative formed under chapter 308A when the teacher also serves on the charter school board of directors.

(e) The commissioner may reduce a charter school's aid under section 127A.42 or 127A.43 if the charter school fails to correct a violation under this subdivision.

Subd. 5. **Conversion of existing schools.** A board of an independent or special school district may convert one or more of its existing schools to charter schools under this section if 60 percent of the full-time teachers at the school sign a petition seeking conversion. The conversion must occur at the beginning of an academic year.

Subd. 6. **Charter contract.** The ~~sponsor's authorization for~~ authorizer's chartering of a ~~charter~~ school must be in the form of a written contract signed by the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer and the board of directors of the charter school. The contract must be ~~completed~~ signed within 90 days of the commissioner's approval of the ~~sponsor's proposed authorization~~ authorizer's proposed affidavit. The authorizer shall submit a copy of the signed contract within ten days of its execution to the commissioner. The contract for a charter school must be in writing and contain at least the following:

(1) a description of a program that carries out one or more of the purposes in subdivision 1;

(2) specific outcomes pupils are to achieve under subdivision 10;

(3) admission policies and procedures;

(4) management and administration of the school;

(5) requirements and procedures for program and financial audits;

(6) how the school will comply with subdivisions 8, 13, 16, and 23;

(7) assumption of liability by the charter school;

(8) types and amounts of insurance coverage to be obtained by the charter school;

(9) the term of the contract, which may be up to three years for the initial contract, and up to five years for a renewed contract based on a demonstration of the school met the academic, financial, and operational terms of the contract;

(10) ~~if~~ how the board of directors or the operators of the charter school will provide special instruction and services for children with a disability under sections 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65, a description of the financial parameters within which the charter school will operate to provide the special instruction and services to children with a disability; ~~and~~

(11) the process and criteria the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer intends to use to monitor and evaluate the fiscal and student performance of the charter school, consistent with subdivision 15~~.~~; and

(12) the plan for an orderly closing of the school under chapter 308A or 317A, if the closure is a termination for cause, voluntary termination, or nonrenewal of the contract, including: establishing the respective responsibilities of the school board of directors and the authorizer; and providing for notice to the commissioner, authorizer, and parents of

enrolled students of the closure, the transfer of student records to the students' resident districts, and procedures for closing financial operations.

Subd. 6a. **Audit report.** (a) The charter school must submit an audit report to the commissioner and its authorizer by December 31 each year.

(b) The charter school, with the assistance of the auditor conducting the audit, must include with the report a copy of all charter school agreements for corporate management services. If the entity that provides the professional services to the charter school is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that entity must file with the commissioner by February 15 a copy of the annual return required under section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) If the commissioner receives ~~as part of the~~ an audit report ~~a management letter~~ indicating that a material weakness exists in the financial reporting systems of a charter school, the charter school must submit a written report to the commissioner explaining how the material weakness will be resolved.

(d) Upon the request of an individual, the charter school must make available in a timely fashion the minutes of meetings of members, the board of directors, and committees having any of the authority of the board of directors, and statements showing the financial result of all operations and transactions affecting income and surplus during the school's last annual accounting period and a balance sheet containing a summary of its assets and liabilities as of the closing date of the accounting period.

Subd. 7. **Public status; exemption from statutes and rules.** A charter school is a public school and is part of the state's system of public education. ~~Except as provided in this section, a charter school is exempt from all statutes and rules applicable to a school, a board, or a district, although it may elect to comply with one or more provisions of statutes or rules.~~ A charter school is exempt from all statutes and rules applicable to a school, school board, or school district unless a statute or rule is made specifically applicable to a charter school or is included in this section.

Subd. 8. **State and local requirements.** (a) A charter school shall meet all ~~applicable~~ federal, state, and local health and safety requirements applicable to school districts.

(b) A school must comply with statewide education accountability requirements governing standards and assessments in chapter 120B.

(c) A school ~~sponsored~~ authorized by a school board may be located in any district, unless the school board of the district of the proposed location disapproves by written resolution.

~~(c)~~ (d) A charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer may not ~~authorize a~~ charter a school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or a religious institution. A charter school student must be released for religious instruction, consistent with section 120A.22, subdivision 12, clause (3).

~~(d)~~ (e) Charter schools must not be used as a method of providing education or generating revenue for students who are being home-schooled.

~~(e)~~ (f) The primary focus of a charter school must be to provide a comprehensive program of instruction for at least one grade or age group from five through 18 years of age. Instruction may be provided to people younger than five years and older than 18 years of age.

~~(f)~~ (g) A charter school may not charge tuition.

~~(g)~~ (h) A charter school is subject to and must comply with chapter 363A and section 121A.04.

~~(h)~~ (i) A charter school is subject to and must comply with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, and the Minnesota Public School Fee Law, sections 123B.34 to 123B.39.

~~(i)~~ (j) A charter school is subject to the same financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as a district. Audits must be conducted in compliance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards, the Federal Single Audit Act, if applicable, and section 6.65. A charter school is subject to and must comply with sections 15.054; 118A.01; 118A.02; 118A.03; 118A.04; 118A.05; 118A.06; 123B.52, subdivision 5; 471.38; 471.391; 471.392; 471.425; 471.87; 471.88, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, and 15; 471.881; and 471.89. The audit must comply with the requirements of sections 123B.75 to 123B.83, except to the extent deviations are necessary because of the program at the school. Deviations must be approved by the commissioner and authorizer. The Department of Education, state auditor, ~~or~~ legislative auditor, or authorizer may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits. A charter school determined to be in statutory operating debt under sections 123B.81 to 123B.83 must submit a plan under section 123B.81, subdivision 4.

~~(j)~~ (k) A charter school is a district for the purposes of tort liability under chapter 466.

~~(k)~~ (l) A charter school must comply with chapters 13 and 13D; and sections ~~13.32;~~ 120A.22, subdivision 7; 121A.75; and 260B.171, subdivisions 3 and 5.

~~(l)~~ (m) A charter school is subject to the Pledge of Allegiance requirement under section 121A.11, subdivision 3.

(n) A school offering online courses or programs must comply with section 124D.095.

(o) The commissioner may reduce a charter school's state aid under section 127A.42 or 127A.43 if the charter school board fails to correct a violation under this section.

Subd. 9. **Admission requirements.** A charter school may limit admission to:

(1) pupils within an age group or grade level;

(2) people who are eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program under section 124D.68; or

(3) residents of a specific geographic area where the percentage of the population of non-Caucasian people of that area is greater than the percentage of the non-Caucasian population in the congressional district in which the geographic area is located, and as long as the school reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the specific area.

A charter school shall enroll an eligible pupil who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In this case, pupils must be accepted by lot. If a charter school is the only school located in a ~~town~~ municipality serving pupils within a particular grade level, then pupils that are residents of the ~~town~~ municipality must be given preference for enrollment before accepting pupils by lot. If a pupil lives within two miles of a charter school and the next closest public school is more than five miles away, the charter school must give those pupils preference for enrollment before accepting other pupils by lot. The charter school must develop and publish a lottery policy and process that it must use when accepting pupils by lot.

A charter school shall give preference for enrollment to a sibling of an enrolled pupil and to a foster child of that pupil's parents and may give preference for enrollment to children of the school's employees before accepting other pupils by lot.

A charter school may not limit admission to pupils on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability.

Subd. 10. **Pupil performance.** A charter school must design its programs to at least meet the outcomes adopted by the commissioner for public school students. In the absence of the commissioner's requirements, the school must meet the outcomes contained in the contract with the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer. The achievement levels of the outcomes contained in the contract may exceed the achievement levels of any outcomes adopted by the commissioner for public school students.

Subd. 11. **Employment and other operating matters.** A charter school must employ or contract with necessary teachers, as defined by section 122A.15, subdivision 1, who hold valid licenses to perform the particular service for which they are employed in

the school. The charter school's state aid may be reduced under section ~~127A.42~~ 127A.43 if the school employs a teacher who is not appropriately licensed or approved by the board of teaching. The school may employ necessary employees who are not required to hold teaching licenses to perform duties other than teaching and may contract for other services. The school may discharge teachers and nonlicensed employees. The charter school board must comply with section 181.932. The charter school board must enter into a written contract with each teacher that outlines the terms and conditions of employment. A person, without holding a valid administrator's license, may perform administrative, supervisory, or instructional leadership duties.

The board of directors also shall decide matters related to the operation of the school, including budgeting, curriculum and operating procedures.

Subd. 12. **Pupils with a disability.** A charter school must comply with sections 125A.02, 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65 and rules relating to the education of pupils with a disability as though it were a district.

Subd. 13. **Length of school year.** A charter school must provide instruction each year for at least the number of days required by section 120A.41. It may provide instruction throughout the year according to sections 124D.12 to 124D.127 or 124D.128.

Subd. 14. **Annual public reports.** A charter school must report at least annually to its ~~sponsor~~ authorizer and the commissioner the information required by the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer or the commissioner. The reports are public data under chapter 13.

Subd. 15. **Review and comment.** (a) ~~The department must review and comment on the evaluation, by the sponsor, of the performance of a charter school before the charter school's contract is renewed for another contract term. The sponsor must submit to the commissioner timely information for the review and comment.~~ The authorizer shall provide a formal, written evaluation of the school's performance before the authorizer renews the charter contract. The department must review and comment on the authorizer's evaluation process at the time the authorizer submits its application for approval and each time the authorizer undergoes its five-year review under subdivision 3.

(b) ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer shall monitor and evaluate the fiscal and student performance of the school, and may for this purpose annually assess a charter school~~: (1) in its first, second, or third year of operation up to $30 per student up to a maximum of $10,000; and (2) in its fourth or a subsequent year of operation up to $10 per student up to a maximum of $3,500~~ the greater of (1) $5,000, or (2) the lesser of (i) $25,000 or (ii) the product of 1.0 percent of the basic formula allowance for that year and the charter school's pupil units for that year in fiscal years 2010 through 2014. The authorizer may assess a charter school the greater of (1) $5,000, or (2) the lesser of (i) $25,000 or (ii) the product

of 1.5 percent of the basic formula allowance for that year and the charter school's pupil units for that year beginning in fiscal year 2015.

Subd. 16. **Transportation.** (a) A charter school after its first fiscal year of operation by March 1 of each fiscal year and a charter school by July 1 of its first fiscal year of operation must notify the district in which the school is located and the Department of Education if it will provide its own transportation or use the transportation services of the district in which it is located for the fiscal year.

(b) If a charter school elects to provide transportation for pupils, the transportation must be provided by the charter school within the district in which the charter school is located. The state must pay transportation aid to the charter school according to section 124D.11, subdivision 2.

For pupils who reside outside the district in which the charter school is located, the charter school is not required to provide or pay for transportation between the pupil's residence and the border of the district in which the charter school is located. A parent may be reimbursed by the charter school for costs of transportation from the pupil's residence to the border of the district in which the charter school is located if the pupil is from a family whose income is at or below the poverty level, as determined by the federal government. The reimbursement may not exceed the pupil's actual cost of transportation or 15 cents per mile traveled, whichever is less. Reimbursement may not be paid for more than 250 miles per week.

At the time a pupil enrolls in a charter school, the charter school must provide the parent or guardian with information regarding the transportation.

(c) If a charter school does not elect to provide transportation, transportation for pupils enrolled at the school must be provided by the district in which the school is located, according to sections 123B.88, subdivision 6, and 124D.03, subdivision 8, for a pupil residing in the same district in which the charter school is located. Transportation may be provided by the district in which the school is located, according to sections 123B.88, subdivision 6, and 124D.03, subdivision 8, for a pupil residing in a different district. If the district provides the transportation, the scheduling of routes, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of the pupils, and any other matter relating to the transportation of pupils under this paragraph shall be within the sole discretion, control, and management of the district.

Subd. 17. **Leased space.** A charter school may lease space from a board eligible to be ~~a sponsor~~ an authorizer or other public or private nonprofit nonsectarian organization. If a charter school is unable to lease appropriate space from an eligible board or other public or private nonprofit nonsectarian organization, the school may lease space from

another nonsectarian organization if the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Administration, approves the lease. If the school is unable to lease appropriate space from public or private nonsectarian organizations, the school may lease space from a sectarian organization if the leased space is constructed as a school facility and the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Administration, approves the lease.

Subd. 18. **Authority to raise initial working capital.** ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer may ~~authorize a~~ charter a school before the applicant has secured its space, equipment, facilities, and personnel if the applicant indicates the authority is necessary for it to raise working capital. ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer may not ~~authorize~~ charter a school before the commissioner has approved the authorization.

Subd. 19. **Disseminate information.** The ~~sponsor~~ authorizer, the operators, and the Department of Education must disseminate information to the public on how to form and operate a charter school and how to utilize the offerings of a charter school. Particular groups to be targeted include low-income families and communities, and students of color.

Subd. 20. **Leave to teach in a charter school.** If a teacher employed by a district makes a written request for an extended leave of absence to teach at a charter school, the district must grant the leave. The district must grant a leave not to exceed a total of five years. Any request to extend the leave shall be granted only at the discretion of the school board. The district may require that the request for a leave or extension of leave be made ~~up to 90 days before the teacher would otherwise have to report for duty~~ before February 1 in the school year preceding the school year in which the teacher intends to return, or February 1 of the calendar year in which the teacher's leave is scheduled to terminate. Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision and except for section 122A.46, subdivision 7, the leave is governed by section 122A.46, including, but not limited to, reinstatement, notice of intention to return, seniority, salary, and insurance.

During a leave, the teacher may continue to aggregate benefits and credits in the Teachers' Retirement Association account by paying both the employer and employee contributions based upon the annual salary of the teacher for the last full pay period before the leave began. The retirement association may impose reasonable requirements to efficiently administer this subdivision.

Subd. 21. **Collective bargaining.** Employees of the board of directors of a charter school may, if otherwise eligible, organize under chapter 179A and comply with its provisions. The board of directors of a charter school is a public employer, for the purposes of chapter 179A, upon formation of one or more bargaining units at the school. Bargaining units at the school must be separate from any other units within ~~the sponsoring~~

an authorizing district, except that bargaining units may remain part of the appropriate unit within ~~the sponsoring~~ an authorizing district, if the employees of the school, the board of directors of the school, the exclusive representative of the appropriate unit in the ~~sponsoring~~ authorizing district, and the board of the ~~sponsoring~~ authorizing district agree to include the employees in the appropriate unit of the ~~sponsoring~~ authorizing district.

Subd. 22. **Teacher and other employee retirement.** (a) Teachers in a charter school must be public school teachers for the purposes of chapters 354 and 354a.

(b) Except for teachers under paragraph (a), employees in a charter school must be public employees for the purposes of chapter 353.

Subd. 23. **Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract.** (a) The duration of the contract with ~~a sponsor~~ an authorizer must be for the term contained in the contract according to subdivision 6. The ~~sponsor~~ authorizer may or may not renew a contract at the end of the term for any ground listed in paragraph (b). ~~A sponsor~~ An authorizer may unilaterally terminate a contract during the term of the contract for any ground listed in paragraph (b). At least 60 days before not renewing or terminating a contract, the ~~sponsor~~ authorizer shall notify the board of directors of the charter school of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall state the grounds for the proposed action in reasonable detail and that the charter school's board of directors may request in writing an informal hearing before the sponsor within 14 days of receiving notice of nonrenewal or termination of the contract. Failure by the board of directors to make a written request for a hearing within the 14-day period shall be treated as acquiescence to the proposed action. Upon receiving a timely written request for a hearing, the sponsor shall give reasonable notice to the charter school's board of directors of the hearing date. The ~~sponsor~~ authorizer shall conduct an informal hearing before taking final action. The ~~sponsor~~ authorizer shall take final action to renew or not renew a contract ~~by the last day of classes in the school year. If the sponsor is a local board, the school's board of directors may appeal the sponsor's decision to the commissioner~~ no later than 30 days before the proposed date for terminating the contract or the end date of the contract.

(b) A contract may be terminated or not renewed upon any of the following grounds:

(1) failure to meet the requirements for pupil performance contained in the contract;

(2) failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;

(3) violations of law; or

(4) other good cause shown.

If a contract is terminated or not renewed under this paragraph, the school must be dissolved according to the applicable provisions of chapter 308A or 317A, except

when the commissioner approves the decision of a different eligible ~~sponsor~~ authorizer to ~~authorize the~~ charter the school.

(c) If at the end of a contract term, ~~either~~ the ~~sponsor or~~ authorizer and the charter school board of directors ~~wants~~ mutually agree to voluntarily ~~terminate~~ not renew the contract, a change in ~~sponsors~~ authorizers is allowed if the commissioner approves the decision of a different eligible ~~sponsor~~ authorizer to ~~authorize the~~ charter the school. ~~The party intending to terminate the contract must notify the other party and the commissioner of its intent at least 90 days before the date on which the contract ends.~~ The ~~sponsor~~ authorizer that is a party to the existing contract at least must inform ~~the approved~~ any different eligible ~~sponsor~~ authorizer about the fiscal and student performance of the school. The parties seeking to not renew the contract jointly must submit their intent in writing to the commissioner at least 90 days before the end date of the contract. Before the commissioner determines whether to grant a change of authorizer, the commissioner must first determine whether the charter school and prospective new authorizer can identify and effectively resolve any circumstances that caused the current authorizer and the charter school to not renew the contract. If no different eligible ~~sponsor~~ authorizer is approved, the school must be dissolved according to applicable law and the terms of the contract.

(d) The commissioner, after providing reasonable notice to the board of directors of a charter school and the existing ~~sponsor~~ authorizer, and after providing an opportunity for a public hearing, may terminate the existing ~~sponsorial relationship~~ contract between the authorizer and the charter school board if the charter school has a history of:

(1) failure to meet pupil performance requirements contained in the contract;

(2) financial mismanagement; or

~~(2) repeated~~ (3) violations of the law.

Subd. 23a. **Related party lease costs.** (a) A charter school is prohibited from entering a lease of real property with a related party as defined in subdivision 26, unless the lessor is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A or a cooperative under chapter 308A, and the lease cost is reasonable under section 124D.11, subdivision 4, clause (1).

(b) For purposes of this section and section 124D.11:

(1) "related party" means an affiliate or close relative of the other party in question, an affiliate of a close relative, or a close relative of an affiliate;

(2) "affiliate" means a person that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person;

(3) "close relative" means an individual whose relationship by blood, marriage, or adoption to another individual is no more remote than first cousin;

(4) "person" means an individual or entity of any kind; and

(5) "control" means the ability to affect the management, operations, or policy actions or decisions of a person, whether through ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

(c) A lease of real property to be used for a charter school, not excluded in paragraph (a), must contain the following statement: "This lease is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.10, subdivision 23a."

~~(c)~~ (d) If a charter school enters into as lessee a lease with a related party and the charter school subsequently closes, the commissioner has the right to recover from the lessor any lease payments in excess of those that are reasonable under section 124D.11, subdivision 4, clause (1).

Subd. 24. **Pupil enrollment upon nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract.** If a contract is not renewed or is terminated according to subdivision 23, a pupil who attended the school, siblings of the pupil, or another pupil who resides in the same place as the pupil may enroll in the resident district or may submit an application to a nonresident district according to section 124D.03 at any time. Applications and notices required by section 124D.03 must be processed and provided in a prompt manner. The application and notice deadlines in section 124D.03 do not apply under these circumstances. The closed charter school must transfer the student's educational records within ten business days of closure to the student's school district of residence where the records must be retained or transferred under section 120A.22, subdivision 7.

Subd. 25. **Extent of specific legal authority.** (a) The board of directors of a charter school may sue and be sued.

(b) The board may not levy taxes or issue bonds.

(c) The commissioner, ~~a sponsor~~ an authorizer, members of the board of ~~a sponsor~~ an authorizer in their official capacity, and employees of a sponsor are immune from civil or criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a charter school they approve or ~~sponsor~~ authorize. The board of directors shall obtain at least the amount of and types of insurance ~~required by the contract, according to subdivision 6.~~ up to the applicable tort liability limits under chapter 466. The charter school board must submit a copy of the insurance policy to its authorizer and the commissioner before starting operations. The charter school board must submit changes in its insurance carrier or policy to its authorizer and the commissioner within 30 days of the change.

~~Subd. 26. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section and section 124D.11:~~

~~(1) A "Related party" is an affiliate or close relative of the other party in question, an affiliate of a close relative, or a close relative of an affiliate.~~

~~(2) "Affiliate" means a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, another person.~~

~~(3) "Close relative" means an individual whose relationship by blood, marriage, or adoption to another individual is no more remote than first cousin.~~

~~(4) "Person" means an individual or entity of any kind.~~

~~(5) "Control" includes the terms "controlling," "controlled by," and "under common control with" and means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management, operations, or policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. Subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), is effective retroactively to June 30, 2007.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.11, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Payment of aids to charter schools.** (a) Notwithstanding section 127A.45, subdivision 3, aid payments for the current fiscal year to a charter school ~~not in its first year of operation~~ shall be of an equal amount on each of the ~~23~~ 24 payment dates. ~~A charter school in its first year of operation shall receive, on its first payment date, ten percent of its cumulative amount guaranteed for the year and 22 payments of an equal amount thereafter the sum of which shall equal the current year aid payment percentage multiplied by the cumulative amount guaranteed.~~

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) and section 127A.45, for a charter school ceasing operation on or prior to ~~the end of a school year, the current year aid payment percentage multiplied by the amount due for the school year may be paid to the school after audit of prior fiscal year and current fiscal year pupil counts.~~ June 30 of a school year, for the payment periods occurring after the school has ceased serving students, the commissioner shall withhold state aid due to the school based on estimated state aid entitlements. The charter school board of directors and authorizer must provide the commissioner with a closure plan under chapter 308A or 317A, and financial information that details the school's liabilities and assets. After receiving the closure plan, financial information, an audit of pupil counts, documentation of lease expenditures, and monitoring of special education expenditures, the commissioner may release cash withheld and may continue regular payments up to the current year payment percentages if further amounts are owed. If, based on audits and monitoring, the school received state aid in excess of the amount owed, the commissioner shall retain cash withheld sufficient to eliminate the aid overpayment. For a charter school ceasing operations prior to, or at the end of, a school

year, notwithstanding section 127A.45, subdivision 3, preliminary final payments may be made after receiving the closure plan, audit of pupil counts, monitoring of special education expenditures, ~~and~~ documentation of lease expenditures, and school submission of Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) financial data for the final year of operation. Final payment may be made upon receipt of audited financial statements under section 123B.77, subdivision 3.

(c) If a charter school fails to comply with the commissioner's directive to return, for cause, federal grant funds administered by the department or, within the timeline under section 471.425, fails to pay a school district or service cooperative after receiving an undisputed invoice for goods and services, the commissioner may withhold an amount of state aid sufficient to satisfy the claim and shall distribute the withheld aid to the school district, intermediate school district, or service cooperative. A school district, intermediate school district, or education cooperative shall notify the commissioner when a charter school fails to pay an undisputed invoice within 90 days of when it received the original invoice.

(d) Notwithstanding section 127A.45, subdivision 3, and paragraph (a), 80 percent of the start-up cost aid under subdivision 8 shall be paid within 45 days after the first day of student attendance for that school year.

~~(d)~~ (e) In order to receive state aid payments under this subdivision, a charter school in its first three years of operation must submit a school calendar in the form and manner requested by the department and a quarterly report to the Department of Education. The report must list each student by grade, show the student's start and end dates, if any, with the charter school, and for any student participating in a learning year program, the report must list the hours and times of learning year activities. The report must be submitted not more than two weeks after the end of the calendar quarter to the department. The department must develop a Web-based reporting form for charter schools to use when submitting enrollment reports. A charter school in its fourth and subsequent year of operation must submit a school calendar and enrollment information to the department in the form and manner requested by the department.

~~(e)~~ (f) Notwithstanding sections 317A.701 to 317A.791, upon closure of a charter school and satisfaction of creditors, cash and investment balances remaining shall be returned to the state.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.128, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Commissioner designation.** (a) ~~An area learning center~~ A state-approved alternative program designated by the state must be a site. ~~An area learning center~~ A

state-approved alternative program must provide services to students who meet the criteria in section 124D.68 and who are enrolled in:

(1) a district that is served by the ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program; or

(2) a charter school located within the geographic boundaries of a district that is served by the ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program.

(b) A school district or charter school may be approved biennially by the state to provide additional instructional programming that results in grade level acceleration. The program must be designed so that students make grade progress during the school year and graduate prior to the students' peers.

(c) To be designated, a district, charter school, or ~~center~~ state-approved alternative program must demonstrate to the commissioner that it will:

(1) provide a program of instruction that permits pupils to receive instruction throughout the entire year; and

(2) develop and maintain a separate record system that, for purposes of section 126C.05, permits identification of membership attributable to pupils participating in the program. The record system and identification must ensure that the program will not have the effect of increasing the total average daily membership attributable to an individual pupil as a result of a learning year program. The record system must include the date the pupil originally enrolled in a learning year program, the pupil's grade level, the date of each grade promotion, the average daily membership generated in each grade level, the number of credits or standards earned, and the number needed to graduate.

(d) A student who has not completed a school district's graduation requirements may continue to enroll in courses the student must complete in order to graduate until the student satisfies the district's graduation requirements or the student is 21 years old, whichever comes first.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.128, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Student planning.** A district, charter school, or ~~area learning center~~ state-approved alternative program must inform all pupils and their parents about the learning year program and that participation in the program is optional. A continual learning plan must be developed at least annually for each pupil with the participation of the pupil, parent or guardian, teachers, and other staff; each participant must sign and date the plan. The plan must specify the learning experiences that must occur during the entire fiscal year and are necessary for grade progression or, for secondary students, graduation. The plan must include:

(1) the pupil's learning objectives and experiences, including courses or credits the pupil plans to complete each year and, for a secondary pupil, the graduation requirements the student must complete;

(2) the assessment measurements used to evaluate a pupil's objectives;

(3) requirements for grade level or other appropriate progression; and

(4) for pupils generating more than one average daily membership in a given grade, an indication of which objectives were unmet.

The plan may be modified to conform to district schedule changes. The district may not modify the plan if the modification would result in delaying the student's time of graduation.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.68, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Eligible pupils.** A pupil under the age of 21 or who meets the requirements of section 120A.20, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), is eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program, if the pupil:

(1) performs substantially below the performance level for pupils of the same age in a locally determined achievement test;

(2) is at least one year behind in satisfactorily completing coursework or obtaining credits for graduation;

(3) is pregnant or is a parent;

(4) has been assessed as chemically dependent;

(5) has been excluded or expelled according to sections 121A.40 to 121A.56;

(6) has been appropriately referred in accordance with section 124D.68, subdivision 1, by a school district for enrollment in an eligible program or a program pursuant to section 124D.69;

(7) is a victim of physical or sexual abuse;

(8) has experienced mental health problems;

(9) has experienced homelessness sometime within six months before requesting a transfer to an eligible program;

(10) speaks English as a second language or has limited English proficiency; or

(11) has withdrawn from school or has been chronically truant; or

(12) is being treated in a hospital in the seven-county metropolitan area for cancer or other life threatening illness or is the sibling of an eligible pupil who is being currently treated, and resides with the pupil's family at least 60 miles beyond the outside boundary of the seven-county metropolitan area.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.68, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Eligible programs.** (a) A pupil who is eligible according to subdivision 2 may enroll in ~~area learning centers~~ a state-approved alternative program under sections 123A.05 to 123A.08.

(b) A pupil who is eligible according to subdivision 2 and who is ~~between the ages of 16 and 21~~ a high school junior or senior may enroll in postsecondary courses under section 124D.09.

(c) A pupil who is eligible under subdivision 2, may enroll in any public elementary or secondary education program.

(d) A pupil who is eligible under subdivision 2, may enroll in any nonpublic, nonsectarian school that has contracted with the serving school district to provide educational services. However, notwithstanding other provisions of this section, only a pupil who is eligible under subdivision 2, clause (12), may enroll in a contract alternative school that is specifically structured to provide educational services to such a pupil.

(e) A pupil who is between the ages of 16 and 21 may enroll in any adult basic education programs approved under section 124D.52 and operated under the community education program contained in section 124D.19.

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.68, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Additional eligible program.** A pupil who is at least 16 years of age, who is eligible under subdivision 2, ~~clause (a),~~ and who has been enrolled only in a public school, if the pupil has been enrolled in any school, during the year immediately before transferring under this subdivision, may transfer to any nonpublic school that has contracted with the serving school district to provide nonsectarian educational services. The school must enroll every eligible pupil who seeks to transfer to the school under this program subject to available space.

Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.68, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Pupil enrollment.** Any eligible pupil may apply to enroll in an eligible program. Approval of the resident district is not required for:

(1) an eligible pupil to enroll in any eligible program in a nonresident district under subdivision 3 or 4 or ~~an area learning center~~ a state-approved alternative program established under section 123A.05; or

(2) an eligible pupil under subdivision 2, to enroll in an adult basic education program approved under section 124D.52.

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.15, is amended to read:

125A.15 PLACEMENT IN ANOTHER DISTRICT; RESPONSIBILITY.

The responsibility for special instruction and services for a child with a disability temporarily placed in another district for care and treatment shall be determined in the following manner:

(a) The district of residence of a child shall be the district in which the child's parent resides, if living, or the child's guardian, or the district designated by the commissioner if neither parent nor guardian is living within the state.

(b) If a district other than the resident district places a pupil for care and treatment, the district placing the pupil must notify and give the resident district an opportunity to participate in the placement decision. When an immediate emergency placement of a pupil is necessary and time constraints foreclose a resident district from participating in the emergency placement decision, the district in which the pupil is temporarily placed must notify the resident district of the emergency placement within 15 days. The resident district has up to five business days after receiving notice of the emergency placement to request an opportunity to participate in the placement decision, which the placing district must then provide.

(c) When a child is temporarily placed for care and treatment in a day program located in another district and the child continues to live within the district of residence during the care and treatment, the district of residence is responsible for providing transportation to and from the care and treatment ~~facility~~ program and an appropriate educational program for the child. The resident district may establish reasonable restrictions on transportation, except if a Minnesota court or agency orders the child placed at a day care and treatment program and the resident district receives a copy of the order, then the resident district must provide transportation to and from the program unless the court or agency orders otherwise. Transportation shall only be provided by the resident district during regular operating hours of the resident district. The resident district may provide the educational program at a school within the district of residence, at the child's residence, or in the district in which the day treatment center is located by paying tuition to that district.

~~(c)~~ (d) When a child is temporarily placed in a residential program for care and treatment, the nonresident district in which the child is placed is responsible for providing an appropriate educational program for the child and necessary transportation while the child is attending the educational program; and must bill the district of the child's residence for the actual cost of providing the program, as outlined in section 125A.11, except as provided in paragraph ~~(d)~~ (e). However, the board, lodging, and treatment costs incurred

in behalf of a child with a disability placed outside of the school district of residence by the commissioner of human services or the commissioner of corrections or their agents, for reasons other than providing for the child's special educational needs must not become the responsibility of either the district providing the instruction or the district of the child's residence. For the purposes of this section, the state correctional facilities operated on a fee-for-service basis are considered to be residential programs for care and treatment.

~~(d)~~ (e) A privately owned and operated residential facility may enter into a contract to obtain appropriate educational programs for special education children and services with a joint powers entity. The entity with which the private facility contracts for special education services shall be the district responsible for providing students placed in that facility an appropriate educational program in place of the district in which the facility is located. If a privately owned and operated residential facility does not enter into a contract under this paragraph, then paragraph ~~(c)~~ (d) applies.

~~(e)~~ (f) The district of residence shall pay tuition and other program costs, not including transportation costs, to the district providing the instruction and services. The district of residence may claim general education aid for the child as provided by law. Transportation costs must be paid by the district responsible for providing the transportation and the state must pay transportation aid to that district.

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

Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.51, is amended to read:

125A.51 PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITHOUT DISABILITIES; EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

The responsibility for providing instruction and transportation for a pupil without a disability who has a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the standards of the commissioner, and who is temporarily placed for care and treatment for that illness or disability, must be determined as provided in this section.

(a) The school district of residence of the pupil is the district in which the pupil's parent or guardian resides.

(b) When parental rights have been terminated by court order, the legal residence of a child placed in a residential or foster facility for care and treatment is the district in which the child resides.

(c) Before the placement of a pupil for care and treatment, the district of residence must be notified and provided an opportunity to participate in the placement decision. When an immediate emergency placement is necessary and time does not permit

resident district participation in the placement decision, the district in which the pupil is temporarily placed, if different from the district of residence, must notify the district of residence of the emergency placement within 15 days of the placement. When a nonresident district makes an emergency placement without first consulting with the resident district, the resident district has up to five business days after receiving notice of the emergency placement to request an opportunity to participate in the placement decision, which the placing district must then provide.

(d) When a pupil without a disability is temporarily placed for care and treatment in a day program and the pupil continues to live within the district of residence during the care and treatment, the district of residence must provide instruction and necessary transportation to and from the care and treatment ~~facility~~ program for the pupil. The resident district may establish reasonable restrictions on transportation, except if a Minnesota court or agency orders the child placed at a day care and treatment program and the resident district receives a copy of the order, then the resident district must provide transportation to and from the program unless the court or agency orders otherwise. Transportation shall only be provided by the resident district during regular operating hours of the resident district. The resident district may provide the instruction at a school within the district of residence, at the pupil's residence, or in the case of a placement outside of the resident district, in the district in which the day treatment program is located by paying tuition to that district. The district of placement may contract with a facility to provide instruction by teachers licensed by the state Board of Teaching.

(e) When a pupil without a disability is temporarily placed in a residential program for care and treatment, the district in which the pupil is placed must provide instruction for the pupil and necessary transportation while the pupil is receiving instruction, and in the case of a placement outside of the district of residence, the nonresident district must bill the district of residence for the actual cost of providing the instruction for the regular school year and for summer school, excluding transportation costs.

(f) Notwithstanding paragraph (e), if the pupil is homeless and placed in a public or private homeless shelter, then the district that enrolls the pupil under section 127A.47, subdivision 2, shall provide the transportation, unless the district that enrolls the pupil and the district in which the pupil is temporarily placed agree that the district in which the pupil is temporarily placed shall provide transportation. When a pupil without a disability is temporarily placed in a residential program outside the district of residence, the administrator of the court placing the pupil must send timely written notice of the placement to the district of residence. The district of placement may contract with a residential facility to provide instruction by teachers licensed by the state Board of

Teaching. For purposes of this section, the state correctional facilities operated on a fee-for-service basis are considered to be residential programs for care and treatment.

(g) The district of residence must include the pupil in its residence count of pupil units and pay tuition as provided in section 123A.488 to the district providing the instruction. Transportation costs must be paid by the district providing the transportation and the state must pay transportation aid to that district. For purposes of computing state transportation aid, pupils governed by this subdivision must be included in the disabled transportation category if the pupils cannot be transported on a regular school bus route without special accommodations.

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

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.05, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

Subd. 15. **Learning year pupil units.** (a) When a pupil is enrolled in a learning year program under section 124D.128, an area learning center or an alternative learning program approved by the commissioner under sections 123A.05 and 123A.06, ~~an alternative program approved by the commissioner,~~ or a contract alternative program under section 124D.68, subdivision 3, paragraph (d), or subdivision 3a, for more than 1,020 hours in a school year for a secondary student, more than 935 hours in a school year for an elementary student, or more than 425 hours in a school year for a kindergarten student without a disability, that pupil may be counted as more than one pupil in average daily membership for purposes of section 126C.10, subdivision 2a. The amount in excess of one pupil must be determined by the ratio of the number of hours of instruction provided to that pupil in excess of: (i) the greater of 1,020 hours or the number of hours required for a full-time secondary pupil in the district to 1,020 for a secondary pupil; (ii) the greater of 935 hours or the number of hours required for a full-time elementary pupil in the district to 935 for an elementary pupil in grades 1 through 6; and (iii) the greater of 425 hours or the number of hours required for a full-time kindergarten student without a disability in the district to 425 for a kindergarten student without a disability. Hours that occur after the close of the instructional year in June shall be attributable to the following fiscal year. A kindergarten student must not be counted as more than 1.2 pupils in average daily membership under this subdivision. A student in grades 1 through 12 must not be counted as more than 1.2 pupils in average daily membership under this subdivision.

(b)(i) To receive general education revenue for a pupil in an area learning center or alternative learning program that has an independent study component, a district must meet the requirements in this paragraph. The district must develop, for the pupil, a continual learning plan consistent with section 124D.128, subdivision 3. Each school

district that has ~~a state-approved public~~ an area learning center or alternative learning program must reserve revenue in an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the district average general education revenue per pupil unit ~~less compensatory revenue per pupil unit~~, minus an amount equal to the product of the formula allowance according to section 126C.10, subdivision 2, times .0485, calculated without basic skills and transportation sparsity revenue, times the number of pupil units generated by students attending ~~a state-approved public~~ an area learning center or alternative learning program. The amount of reserved revenue available under this subdivision may only be spent for program costs associated with the ~~state-approved public~~ area learning center or alternative learning program. ~~Compensatory revenue must be allocated according to section 126C.15, subdivision 2.~~ Basic skills revenue generated by pupils attending the eligible program must be allocated according to section 126C.10, subdivision 4.

(ii) General education revenue for a pupil in ~~an approved~~ a state-approved alternative program without an independent study component must be prorated for a pupil participating for less than a full year, or its equivalent. The district must develop a continual learning plan for the pupil, consistent with section 124D.128, subdivision 3. Each school district that has ~~a state-approved public~~ an area learning center or alternative learning program must reserve revenue in an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the district average general education revenue per pupil unit ~~less compensatory revenue per pupil unit~~, minus an amount equal to the product of the formula allowance according to section 126C.10, subdivision 2, times .0485, calculated without basic skills and transportation sparsity revenue, times the number of pupil units generated by students attending ~~a state-approved public~~ an area learning center or alternative learning program. The amount of reserved revenue available under this subdivision may only be spent for program costs associated with the ~~state-approved public~~ area learning center or alternative learning program. ~~Compensatory revenue must be allocated according to section 126C.15, subdivision 2.~~ Basic skills revenue generated by pupils attending the eligible program must be allocated according to section 126C.10, subdivision 4.

(iii) General education revenue for a pupil in ~~an~~ a state-approved alternative program that has an independent study component must be paid for each hour of teacher contact time and each hour of independent study time completed toward a credit or graduation standards necessary for graduation. Average daily membership for a pupil shall equal the number of hours of teacher contact time and independent study time divided by 1,020.

(iv) For ~~an~~ a state-approved alternative program having an independent study component, the commissioner shall require a description of the courses in the program, the

kinds of independent study involved, the expected learning outcomes of the courses, and the means of measuring student performance against the expected outcomes.

Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.05, subdivision 20, is amended to read:

Subd. 20. **Project-based average daily membership.** (a) Project-based is an instructional program where students complete coursework for credit at an individual pace that is primarily student-led and may be completed on site, in the community, or online. A project-based program may be made available to all or selected students and grades in a school. To receive general education revenue for a pupil enrolled in a public school with a project-based program, a school must meet the requirements in this paragraph. The school must:

(1) ~~register with the commissioner as a project-based program by May 30 of the preceding fiscal year~~ apply and receive approval from the commissioner as a project-based program at least 90 days prior to starting the program;

(2) provide a minimum teacher contact of no less than one hour per week per project-based credit for each pupil;

(3) ensure that the program will not increase the total average daily membership generated by the student and that there will be the expectation that the students will be making typical progression towards high school graduation;

~~(3)~~ (4) maintain a record system that shows when each credit or portion thereof was reported for membership for each pupil; and

~~(4)~~ (5) report pupil membership consistent with paragraph (b).

(b) The commissioner must develop a formula for reporting pupil membership to compute average daily membership for each ~~registered~~ approved project-based ~~school~~ program. Average daily membership for a pupil in ~~a registered~~ an approved project-based program is the lesser of:

(1) 1.0; or

(2) the ratio of (i) the number of membership hours generated by project-based credits completed during the school year plus membership hours generated by credits completed in a seat-based setting to (ii) the annual required instructional hours at that grade level. Membership hours for a partially completed project-based credit must be prorated. General education revenue for a pupil in a project-based program must be prorated for a pupil participating for less than a full year, or its equivalent.

(c) For a program that has not been approved by the commissioner for project-based learning but an auditor or other site visit deems that any portion or credits awarded by the school are project-based, student membership must be computed per paragraph (b).

Sec. 29. **APPOINTMENTS TO CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

The commissioner shall complete the appointments required under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.10, subdivision 2a, no later than September 1, 2009. The commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the council no later than October 1, 2009.

ARTICLE 3
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.60, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Notice.** Within ~~ten~~ 30 days after the enrollment of any pupil in an instructional program for limited English proficient students, the district in which the pupil resides must notify the parent by mail. This notice must:

(1) be in writing in English and in the primary language of the pupil's parents;

(2) inform the parents that their child has been enrolled in an instructional program for limited English proficient students;

(3) contain a simple, nontechnical description of the purposes, method and content of the program;

(4) inform the parents that they have the right to visit the educational program for limited English proficient students in which their child is enrolled;

(5) inform the parents of the time and manner in which to request and receive a conference for the purpose of explaining the nature and purpose of the program; and

(6) inform the parents of their rights to withdraw their child from an educational program for limited English proficient students and the time and manner in which to do so.

The department shall, at the request of the district, prepare the notice in the primary language of the parent.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.28, is amended to read:

125A.28 STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL.

An Interagency Coordinating Council of at least 17, but not more than 25 members is established, in compliance with Public Law 108-446, section 641. The members must be appointed by the governor. Council members must elect the council chair. The representative of the commissioner may not serve as the chair. The council must be composed of at least five parents, including persons of color, of children with disabilities under age 12, including at least three parents of a child with a disability under age seven, five representatives of public or private providers of services for children with disabilities

under age five, including a special education director, county social service director, local Head Start director, and a community health services or public health nursing administrator, one member of the senate, one member of the house of representatives, one representative of teacher preparation programs in early childhood-special education or other preparation programs in early childhood intervention, at least one representative of advocacy organizations for children with disabilities under age five, one physician who cares for young children with special health care needs, one representative each from the commissioners of commerce, education, health, human services, a representative from the state agency responsible for child care, foster care, mental health, homeless coordinator of education of homeless children and youth, and a representative from Indian health services or a tribal council. Section 15.059, subdivisions 2 to 5, apply to the council. The council must meet at least quarterly.

The council must address methods of implementing the state policy of developing and implementing comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary interagency programs of early intervention services for children with disabilities and their families.

The duties of the council include recommending policies to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated system of all state and local agency services for children under age five with disabilities and their families. The policies must address how to incorporate each agency's services into a unified state and local system of multidisciplinary assessment practices, individual intervention plans, comprehensive systems to find children in need of services, methods to improve public awareness, and assistance in determining the role of interagency early intervention committees.

On the date that Minnesota Part C Annual Performance Report is submitted to the federal Office of Special Education, the council must recommend to the governor and the commissioners of education, health, human services, commerce, and employment and economic development policies for a comprehensive and coordinated system.

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the State Interagency Coordinating Council expires on June 30, ~~2009~~ 2014.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.69, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1a. **Trial placement.** A parent may apply for a child who meets state disability entrance criteria for being deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired and resides within the state of Minnesota. Upon completion of the application process, the child may attend the academies for a 60-day trial placement. At the conclusion of the trial

placement, a meeting with academies staff and the parent will occur to determine if the academies are the appropriate placement.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.744, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Implementation.** Consistent with section 256B.0625, subdivision 26, school districts may enroll as medical assistance providers or subcontractors and bill the Department of Human Services under the medical assistance fee for service claims processing system for special education services which are covered services under chapter 256B, which are provided in the school setting for a medical assistance recipient, and for whom the district has secured informed consent consistent with section 13.05, subdivision 4, paragraph (d), and section 256B.77, subdivision 2, paragraph (p), to bill for each type of covered service. School districts shall be reimbursed by the commissioner of human services for the federal share of individual education plan health-related services that qualify for reimbursement by medical assistance, minus up to five percent retained by the commissioner of human services for administrative costs~~, not to exceed $350,000 per fiscal year~~. The commissioner may withhold up to five percent of each payment to a school district. Following the end of each fiscal year, the commissioner shall settle up with each school district in order to ensure that collections from each district for departmental administrative costs are made on a pro rata basis according to federal earnings for these services in each district. A school district is not eligible to enroll as a home care provider or a personal care provider organization for purposes of billing home care services under sections 256B.0651 and 256B.0653 to 256B.0656 until the commissioner of human services issues a bulletin instructing county public health nurses on how to assess for the needs of eligible recipients during school hours. To use private duty nursing services or personal care services at school, the recipient or responsible party must provide written authorization in the care plan identifying the chosen provider and the daily amount of services to be used at school.

ARTICLE 4
LIBRARIES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 134.31, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

Subd. 4a. **Services to ~~the blind and physically handicapped~~ people with visual and physical disabilities.** The Minnesota Department of Education shall provide specialized services to ~~the blind and physically handicapped~~ people with visual and physical disabilities through the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library ~~for the Blind~~

~~and Physically Handicapped~~ under a cooperative plan with the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 134.31, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7. **Telephone or electronic meetings.** (a) Notwithstanding section 13D.01, the Advisory Committee for the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library may conduct a meeting of its members by telephone or other electronic means so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) all members of the committee participating in the meeting, wherever their physical locations, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

(2) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the committee can hear all discussion, testimony, and votes of the members of the committee;

(3) at least one member of the committee is physically present at the regular meeting location; and

(4) all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

(b) Each member of the committee participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining quorum and participating in all proceedings.

(c) If telephone or other electronic means is used to conduct a meeting, to the extent practical, the committee shall allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The committee may require the person making the connection to pay for the documented additional costs that the committee incurs as a result of the additional connection.

(d) If telephone or other electronic means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the committee shall provide notice of the regular meeting location, the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and the provisions of paragraph (c). The timing and method of providing notice is governed by section 13D.04.

ARTICLE 5
SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.135, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Early childhood family education levy.** (a) By September 30 of each year, the commissioner shall establish a tax rate for early childhood family education revenue that raises $22,135,000 in each fiscal year. If the amount of the early childhood family education levy would exceed the early childhood family education revenue, the early childhood family education levy must equal the early childhood family education revenue. ~~Beginning with levies for fiscal year 2011, a district may not certify an early childhood family education levy unless it has met the annual program data reporting and biennial plan requirements under section 124D.13, subdivision 13.~~

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for fiscal year 2009 only, the commissioner shall establish a tax rate for early education revenue that raises $13,565,000.

Sec. 2. **[124D.145] EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM.**

The early learning system is defined to be the coherent structure of research-based curriculum content, instructional practice, program and child assessment, performance-based child and programmatic standards, professional development, engagement and outreach, accountability, financing, and governance efforts that contribute to all aspects of children's development and to prepare all children for kindergarten. This includes children's readiness for success in meeting Minnesota's kindergarten academic standards under section 120B.021. The system is delivered through a variety of public and private child care, preschool, Head Start, and school-based programs and services.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** A district or a group of districts may establish a school readiness program for children age three to kindergarten entrance. The purpose of a school readiness program is to prepare children to enter kindergarten, especially children most at-risk for being unprepared for kindergarten.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.15, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Program requirements.** A school readiness program provider must:

(1) assess each child's cognitive skills with a comprehensive child assessment instrument when the child enters and again before the child leaves the program to inform program planning and parents and promote kindergarten readiness;

(2) provide comprehensive program content and intentional instructional practice aligned with the state early childhood learning guidelines and kindergarten standards and based on early childhood research and professional practice that is focused on children's

cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills and development and prepares children for the transition to kindergarten, including early literacy skills;

(3) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with parents and kindergarten teachers;

~~(3)~~ (4) arrange for early childhood screening and appropriate referral;

~~(4)~~ (5) involve parents in program planning and decision making;

~~(5)~~ (6) coordinate with relevant community-based services; ~~and~~

~~(6)~~ (7) cooperate with adult basic education programs and other adult literacy programs~~.~~;

(8) ensure staff-child ratios of one to ten and maximum group size of 20 children with the first staff required to be a teacher; and

(9) serve children a minimum of 12 hours per week.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.15, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 10a. **Teachers.** A school board must employ necessary qualified teachers trained in early childhood curriculum content, instruction, and competency as determined by the commissioner. Areas of competency include early childhood development, child observation and assessment, and curriculum planning.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.15, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 15. **Program rating.** A district school readiness program receives a rating of four stars in any publicly funded pilot early childhood quality rating system. Upon completion of the quality rating system pilot evaluation, the commissioner shall review the pilot evaluation and findings to determine if they are consistent with a four-star rating for a district's school readiness program.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.19, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Youth service programs.** (a) A school board may offer, as part of a community education program with a youth development program, a youth service program that provides young people with meaningful opportunities to become involved in their community, develop individual capabilities, make career connections, seek support networks and services, become active citizens, and address community needs through youth service. The board may award up to one credit, or the equivalent, toward graduation for a pupil who completes the youth service requirements of the district. The community

education advisory council, after considering the results of the commissioner's study under section 124D.50, subdivision 1, must design the program in cooperation with the district planning, evaluating and reporting committee and local organizations that train volunteers or need volunteers' services.

(b) Programs must include:

(1) preliminary training for pupil volunteers conducted, when possible, by organizations experienced in such training;

(2) supervision of the pupil volunteers to ensure appropriate placement and adequate learning opportunity;

(3) sufficient opportunity, in a positive setting for human development, for pupil volunteers to develop general skills in preparation for employment, to enhance self-esteem and self-worth, and to give genuine service to their community;

(4) integration of academic learning with the service experience; and

(5) integration of youth community service with elementary and secondary curriculum.

(c) Youth service projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) human services for the elderly, including home care and related services;

(2) tutoring and mentoring;

(3) training for and providing emergency services;

(4) services at extended day programs;

(5) environmental services; and

(6) service-learning programs in which schools, including postsecondary schools, and employers work together with young people to provide them with meaningful opportunities for community service and with the academic and technical skills that employers require.

(d) ~~The commissioner shall maintain a list of acceptable projects with a description of each project. A project that is not on the list must be approved by the commissioner.~~

~~(e)~~ A youth service project must have a community sponsor that may be a governmental unit or nonprofit organization. To assure that pupils provide additional services, each sponsor must assure that pupil services do not displace employees or reduce the workload of any employee.

~~(f)~~ (e) The commissioner shall assist districts in planning youth service programs, implementing programs, and developing recommendations for obtaining community sponsors.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.19, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

Subd. 14. **Community education; annual report.** Each district offering a community education program under this section must annually report to the department information regarding ~~the cost per participant and cost per contact hour for~~ each community education program, including youth after-school enrichment programs, that receives aid or levy. ~~The department must include cost per participant and cost per contact hour information by program in the community education annual report.~~

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.522, is amended to read:

124D.522 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE GRANTS.

(a) The commissioner, in consultation with the policy review task force under section 124D.521, may make grants to nonprofit organizations to provide services that are not offered by a district adult basic education program or that are supplemental to either the statewide adult basic education program, or a district's adult basic education program. The commissioner may make grants for: staff development for adult basic education teachers and administrators; training for volunteer tutors; training, services, and materials for serving disabled students through adult basic education programs; statewide promotion of adult basic education services and programs; development and dissemination of instructional and administrative technology for adult basic education programs; programs which primarily serve communities of color; adult basic education distance learning projects, including television instruction programs; and other supplemental services to support the mission of adult basic education and innovative delivery of adult basic education services.

(b) The commissioner must establish eligibility criteria and grant application procedures. Grants under this section must support services throughout the state, focus on educational results for adult learners, and promote outcome-based achievement through adult basic education programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2002, the commissioner may make grants under this section from the state total adult basic education aid set aside for supplemental service grants under section 124D.531. Up to one-fourth of the appropriation for supplemental service grants must be used for grants for adult basic education programs to encourage and support innovations in adult basic education instruction and service delivery. A grant to a single organization cannot exceed ~~$100,000~~ 20 percent of the total supplemental services aid. Nothing in this section prevents an approved adult basic education program from using state or federal aid to purchase supplemental services.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 299A.297, is amended to read:

299A.297 OTHER DUTIES.

The commissioner of public safety, in consultation with the Chemical Abuse and Violence Prevention Council, shall:

(1) provide information and assistance upon request to school preassessment teams established under section 121A.26 ~~and school and community advisory teams established under section 121A.27~~;

(2) provide information and assistance upon request to the State Board of Pharmacy with respect to the board's enforcement of chapter 152;

(3) cooperate with and provide information and assistance upon request to the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Section in the Department of Human Services;

(4) coordinate the policy of the office with that of the Narcotic Enforcement Unit in the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; and

(5) coordinate the activities of the regional drug task forces, provide assistance and information to them upon request, and assist in the formation of task forces in areas of the state in which no task force operates.

Sec. 11. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 121A.27; and 124D.13, subdivision 13, are repealed.

ARTICLE 6
STATE AGENCIES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 127A.08, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5. **Grants and gifts.** The commissioner may apply for and receive grants and gifts administered by agencies of the state and other government or nongovernment sources. Any money received is hereby appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which it is granted.

ARTICLE 7
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.02, is amended to read:

120B.02 EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR MINNESOTA'S STUDENTS.

(a) The legislature is committed to establishing rigorous academic standards for Minnesota's public school students. To that end, the commissioner shall adopt in rule statewide academic standards. The commissioner shall not prescribe in rule or otherwise the delivery system, classroom assessments, or form of instruction that school sites must use. For purposes of this chapter, a school site is a separate facility, or a separate program within a facility that a local school board recognizes as a school site for funding purposes.

(b) All commissioner actions regarding the rule must be premised on the following:

(1) the rule is intended to raise academic expectations for students, teachers, and schools;

(2) any state action regarding the rule must evidence consideration of school district autonomy; and

(3) the Department of Education, with the assistance of school districts, must make available information about all state initiatives related to the rule to students and parents, teachers, and the general public in a timely format that is appropriate, comprehensive, and readily understandable.

(c) When fully implemented, the requirements for high school graduation in Minnesota must require students to satisfactorily complete, as determined by the school district, the course credit requirements under section 120B.024 and~~:~~ successfully pass graduation examinations as required under section 120B.30.

~~(1) for students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year, to pass the basic skills test requirements; and~~

~~(2) for students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later, to pass the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments Second Edition (MCA-IIs).~~

(d) The commissioner shall periodically review and report on the state's assessment process.

(e) School districts are not required to adopt specific provisions of the federal School-to-Work programs.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.021, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Required academic standards.** The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability:

(1) language arts;

(2) mathematics;

(3) science;

(4) social studies, including history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship;

(5) health and physical education, for which locally developed academic standards apply; and

(6) the arts, for which statewide or locally developed academic standards apply, as determined by the school district. Public elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following four arts areas: dance; music; theater; and visual arts. Public high schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: media arts; dance; music; theater; and visual arts.

The commissioner must submit proposed standards in science and social studies to the legislature by February 1, 2004.

For purposes of applicable federal law, the academic standards for language arts, mathematics, and science apply to all public school students~~, except the very few students with extreme cognitive or physical impairments for whom an individualized education plan team has determined that the required academic standards are inappropriate. An individualized education plan team that makes this determination must establish alternative standards~~ with appropriate alternate achievement standards based on these academic standards for students with individualized education plans described under federal law.

A school district, no later than the 2007-2008 school year, must adopt graduation requirements that meet or exceed state graduation requirements established in law or rule. A school district that incorporates these state graduation requirements before the 2007-2008 school year must provide students who enter the 9th grade in or before the 2003-2004 school year the opportunity to earn a diploma based on existing locally established graduation requirements in effect when the students entered the 9th grade. District efforts to develop, implement, or improve instruction or curriculum as a result of the provisions of this section must be consistent with sections 120B.10, 120B.11, and 120B.20.

The commissioner must include the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities as they relate to the academic standards during the review and revision of the required academic standards.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.30, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Statewide testing.** (a) The commissioner, with advice from experts with appropriate technical qualifications and experience and stakeholders, consistent with subdivision 1a, shall include in the comprehensive assessment system, for each grade level to be tested, state-constructed tests developed from and aligned with the state's required academic standards under section 120B.021 and administered annually to all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level. A state-developed

test in a subject other than writing, developed after the 2002-2003 school year, must include both machine-scoreable and constructed response questions. The commissioner shall establish one or more months during which schools shall administer the tests to students each school year. For students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year, only Minnesota basic skills tests in reading, mathematics, and writing shall fulfill students' basic skills testing requirements for a passing state notation. The passing scores of basic skills tests in reading and mathematics are the equivalent of 75 percent correct for students entering grade 9 in 1997 and thereafter, as based on the first uniform test administration of February 1998.

(b) For students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later, only the following options shall fulfill students' state graduation test requirements:

(1) for reading and mathematics:

(i) obtaining an achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the Minnesota comprehensive assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the graduation-required assessment for diploma in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics or subsequent retests;

(ii) achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified language proficiency test in reading and the mathematics test for English language learners or the graduation-required assessment for diploma equivalent of those assessments for students designated as English language learners;

(iii) achieving an individual passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan or 504 plan;

(iv) obtaining achievement level equivalent to or greater than proficient as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for mathematics for students with an individual education plan; or

(v) achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan; and

(2) for writing:

(i) achieving a passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma;

(ii) achieving a passing score as determined through a standard setting process on the state-identified language proficiency test in writing for students designated as English language learners;

(iii) achieving an individual passing score on the graduation-required assessment for diploma as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan or 504 plan; or

(iv) achieving an individual passing score on the state-identified alternate assessment or assessments as determined by appropriate state guidelines for students with an individual education plan.

(c) The 3rd through 8th grade and high school level test results shall be available to districts for diagnostic purposes affecting student learning and district instruction and curriculum, and for establishing educational accountability. The commissioner must disseminate to the public the test results upon receiving those results.

(d) State tests must be constructed and aligned with state academic standards. The testing process and the order of administration shall be determined by the commissioner. The statewide results shall be aggregated at the site and district level, consistent with subdivision 1a.

(e) In addition to the testing and reporting requirements under this section, the commissioner shall include the following components in the statewide public reporting system:

(1) uniform statewide testing of all students in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level that provides appropriate, technically sound accommodations~~,~~ or alternate assessments~~, or exemptions~~ consistent with applicable federal law~~, only with parent or guardian approval, for those very few students for whom the student's individual education plan team under sections 125A.05 and 125A.06 determines that the general statewide test is inappropriate for a student, or for a limited English proficiency student under section 124D.59, subdivision 2~~;

(2) educational indicators that can be aggregated and compared across school districts and across time on a statewide basis, including average daily attendance, high school graduation rates, and high school drop-out rates by age and grade level;

(3) state results on the American College Test; and

(4) state results from participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress so that the state can benchmark its performance against the nation and other states, and, where possible, against other countries, and contribute to the national effort to monitor achievement.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 120B.31, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Statistical adjustments.** In developing policies and assessment processes to hold schools and districts accountable for high levels of academic standards under section 120B.021, the commissioner shall aggregate student data over time to report student performance levels measured at the school district~~, regional,~~ or statewide level. When collecting and reporting the data, the commissioner shall~~: (1) acknowledge the impact of significant demographic factors such as residential instability, the number of single parent families, parents' level of education, and parents' income level on school outcomes; and (2)~~ organize and report the data so that state and local policy makers can understand the educational implications of changes in districts' demographic profiles over time. Any report the commissioner disseminates containing summary data on student performance must integrate student performance and the demographic factors that strongly correlate with that performance.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 122A.31, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Reimbursement.** (a) For purposes of revenue under section ~~125A.78~~ 125A.76, the Department of Education must only reimburse school districts for the services of those interpreters/transliterators who satisfy the standards of competency under this section.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a district shall be reimbursed for the services of interpreters with a nonrenewable provisional certificate, interpreters/transliterators employed to mentor the provisional certified interpreters, and persons for whom a time-limited extension has been granted under subdivision 1, paragraph (d), or subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.14, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Clerk records.** The clerk shall keep a record of all meetings of the district and the board in books provided by the district for that purpose. The clerk shall, within three days after an election, notify all persons elected of their election. By ~~August~~ September 15 of each year the clerk shall file with the board a report of the revenues, expenditures and balances in each fund for the preceding fiscal year. The report together with vouchers and supporting documents shall subsequently be examined by a public accountant or the state auditor, either of whom shall be paid by the district, as provided in section 123B.77, subdivision 3. The board shall by resolution approve the report or require a further or amended report. By ~~August~~ September 15 of each year, the clerk shall make and transmit to the commissioner certified reports, showing:

(1) ~~The condition and value of school property;~~

~~(2)~~ the revenues and expenditures in detail, and such other financial information required by law, rule, or as may be called for by the commissioner;

~~(3)~~ (2) the length of school term and the enrollment and attendance by grades; and

~~(4)~~ (3) such other items of information as may be called for by the commissioner.

The clerk shall enter in the clerk's record book copies of all reports and of the teachers' term reports, as they appear in the registers, and of the proceedings of any meeting as furnished by the clerk pro tem, and keep an itemized account of all the expenses of the district. The clerk shall furnish to the auditor of the proper county, by ~~October 10~~ September 30 of each year, an attested copy of the clerk's record, showing the amount of ~~money~~ proposed property tax voted by the district or the board for school purposes; draw and sign all orders upon the treasurer for the payment of money for bills allowed by the board for salaries of officers and for teachers' wages and all claims, to be countersigned by the chair. Such orders must state the consideration, payee, and the fund and the clerk shall take a receipt therefor. Teachers' wages shall have preference in the order in which they become due, and no money applicable for teachers' wages shall be used for any other purpose, nor shall teachers' wages be paid from any fund except that raised or apportioned for that purpose.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.81, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Debt verification.** The commissioner shall establish a uniform auditing or other verification procedure for districts to determine whether a statutory operating debt exists in any Minnesota school district ~~as of June 30, 1977. This procedure must identify all interfund transfers made during fiscal year 1977 from a fund included in computing statutory operating debt to a fund not included in computing statutory operating debt~~. The standards for this uniform auditing or verification procedure must be promulgated by the state board pursuant to chapter 14. If a district applies to the commissioner for a statutory operating debt verification ~~or if the unaudited financial statement for the school year ending June 30, 1977 reveals that a statutory operating debt might exist~~, the commissioner shall require a verification of the amount of the statutory operating debt which actually does exist.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.81, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Debt elimination.** If an audit or other verification procedure conducted pursuant to subdivision 3 determines that a statutory operating debt exists, a district

must follow the procedures ~~set forth~~ in ~~this~~ section 123B.83 to eliminate this statutory operating debt.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 123B.81, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Certification of debt.** The commissioner shall certify the amount of statutory operating debt for each district. ~~Prior to June 30, 1979, the commissioner may, on the basis of corrected figures, adjust the total amount of statutory operating debt certified for any district.~~

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.095, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Online learning parameters.** (a) An online learning student must receive academic credit for completing the requirements of an online learning course or program. Secondary credits granted to an online learning student must be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of the enrolling district. An online learning provider must make available to the enrolling district the course syllabus, standard alignment, content outline, assessment requirements, and contact information for supplemental online courses taken by students in the enrolling district. The enrolling district must apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including online learning students, and must continue to provide nonacademic services to online learning students. If a student completes an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirement at the enrolling district, that standard or requirement is met. The enrolling district must use the same criteria for accepting online learning credits or courses as it does for accepting credits or courses for transfer students under section 124D.03, subdivision 9. The enrolling district may reduce the course schedule of an online learning student in proportion to the number of online learning courses the student takes from an online learning provider that is not the enrolling district.

(b) An online learning student may:

(1) enroll in supplemental online learning courses during a single school year to a maximum of 50 percent of the student's full schedule of courses per term. A student may exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit if the enrolling district grants permission for supplemental online learning enrollment above the limit, or if an agreement is made between the enrolling district and the online learning provider for instructional services;

(2) complete course work at a grade level that is different from the student's current grade level; and

(3) enroll in additional courses with the online learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for payment of any tuition or course fees.

(c) An online learning student has the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in a school as all other students in the enrolling district. An online learning provider must assist an online learning student whose family qualifies for the education tax credit under section 290.0674 to acquire computer hardware and educational software for online learning purposes.

(d) An enrolling district may offer online learning to its enrolled students. Such online learning does not generate online learning funds under this section. An enrolling district that offers online learning only to its enrolled students is not subject to the reporting requirements or review criteria under subdivision 7, unless the enrolling district is a full-time online provider. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to enrolled students receiving online learning from an enrolling district. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher with a Minnesota license.

(e) ~~An~~ A full-time or supplemental online learning provider ~~that is not the enrolling district~~ is subject to the reporting requirements and review criteria under subdivision 7. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to online learning students. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher with a Minnesota license. Unless the commissioner grants a waiver, a teacher providing online learning instruction must not instruct more than 40 students in any one online learning course or program.

(f) To enroll in more than 50 percent of the student's full schedule of courses per term in online learning, the student must qualify to exceed the supplemental online learning registration limit under paragraph (b) or apply for enrollment to an approved full-time online learning program following appropriate procedures in subdivision 3, paragraph (a). Full-time online learning students may enroll in classes at a local school per contract for instructional services between the online learning provider and the school district.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.10, subdivision 6a, is amended to read:

Subd. 6a. **Audit report.** (a) The charter school must submit an audit report to the commissioner by December 31 each year.

(b) The charter school, with the assistance of the auditor conducting the audit, must include with the report a copy of all charter school agreements for corporate management services. If the entity that provides the professional services to the charter school is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that entity must file with the commissioner by February 15 a copy of the annual return required under section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) If the commissioner receives ~~as part of the~~ an audit report ~~a management letter~~ indicating that a material weakness exists in the financial reporting systems of a charter school, the charter school must submit a written report to the commissioner explaining how the material weakness will be resolved.

(d) Upon the request of an individual, the charter school must make available in a timely fashion the minutes of meetings of members, the board of directors, and committees having any of the authority of the board of directors, and statements showing the financial result of all operations and transactions affecting income and surplus during the school's last annual accounting period and a balance sheet containing a summary of its assets and liabilities as of the closing date of the accounting period.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.62, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Grants and gifts.** The board, through the chief administrators of the academies, may apply for all competitive grants administered by agencies of the state and other government or nongovernment sources. Application may not be made for grants over which the board has discretion. Any money so received is hereby appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which it is granted.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 125A.76, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the definitions in this subdivision apply.

(a) "Basic revenue" has the meaning given it in section 126C.10, subdivision 2. For the purposes of computing basic revenue pursuant to this section, each child with a disability shall be counted as prescribed in section 126C.05, subdivision 1.

(b) "Essential personnel" means teachers, cultural liaisons, related services, and support services staff providing ~~direct~~ services to students. Essential personnel may also include special education paraprofessionals or clericals providing support to teachers and students by preparing paperwork and making arrangements related to special education compliance requirements, including parent meetings and individual education plans. Essential personnel does not include administrators and supervisors.

(c) "Average daily membership" has the meaning given it in section 126C.05.

(d) "Program growth factor" means 1.046 for fiscal year 2012 and later.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 126C.10, subdivision 34, is amended to read:

Subd. 34. **Basic alternative teacher compensation aid.** (a) For fiscal years 2007 ~~and later~~ 2008, and 2009, the basic alternative teacher compensation aid for a school district with a plan approved under section 122A.414, subdivision 2b, equals ~~65~~ 73.1 percent of the alternative teacher compensation revenue under section 122A.415, subdivision 1. The basic alternative teacher compensation aid for an intermediate school district or charter school with a plan approved under section 122A.414, subdivisions 2a and 2b, if the recipient is a charter school, equals $260 times the number of pupils enrolled in the school on October 1 of the previous fiscal year, or on October 1 of the current fiscal year for a charter school in the first year of operation, times the ratio of the sum of the alternative teacher compensation aid and alternative teacher compensation levy for all participating school districts to the maximum alternative teacher compensation revenue for those districts under section 122A.415, subdivision 1.

(b) For fiscal years 2010 and later, the basic alternative teacher compensation aid for a school with a plan approved under section 122A.414, subdivision 2b, equals 65 percent of the alternative teacher compensation revenue under section 122A.415, subdivision 1. The basic alternative teacher compensation aid for an intermediate school district or charter school with a plan approved under section 122A.414, subdivisions 2a and 2b, if the recipient is a charter school, equals $260 times the number of pupils enrolled in the school on October 1 of the previous year, or on October 1 of the current year for a charter school in the first year of operation, times the ratio of the sum of the alternative teacher compensation aid and alternative teacher compensation levy for all participating school districts to the maximum alternative teacher compensation revenue for those districts under section 122A.415, subdivision 1.

~~(b)~~ (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) and section 122A.415, subdivision 1, the state total basic alternative teacher compensation aid entitlement must not exceed $75,636,000 for fiscal year 2007 and later. The commissioner must limit the amount of alternative teacher compensation aid approved under section 122A.415 so as not to exceed these limits.

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

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 127A.47, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Notification of resident district.** A district educating a pupil who is a resident of another district must notify the district of residence within 60 days of the date the pupil is determined by the district to be a nonresident, but not later than August 1 following the end of the school year in which the pupil is educated. ~~If the district of residence does not receive a notification from the providing district pursuant to this subdivision, it is not liable to that district for any tuition billing received after August 1 of the next school year.~~

APPENDIX
Article locations in s1253-1

ARTICLE 1 GENERAL EDUCATION ..... Page.Ln 1.23
ARTICLE 2 EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ..... Page.Ln 10.16
ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL PROGRAMS ..... Page.Ln 53.6
ARTICLE 4 LIBRARIES ..... Page.Ln 55.27
ARTICLE 5 SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND LIFELONG LEARNING ..... Page.Ln 56.30
ARTICLE 6 STATE AGENCIES ..... Page.Ln 61.20
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121A.27 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY TEAM.

The superintendent, with the advice of the school board, shall establish a school and community advisory team to address chemical abuse problems in the district. The school and community advisory team must be composed of representatives from the school preassessment team established in section 121A.26, to the extent possible, law enforcement agencies, county attorney's office, social service agencies, chemical abuse treatment programs, parents, and the business community. The community advisory team shall:

(1) build awareness of the problem within the community, identify available treatment and counseling programs for students and develop good working relationships and enhance communication between the schools and other community agencies; and

(2) develop a written procedure clarifying the notification process to be used by the chemical abuse preassessment team established under section 121A.26 when a student is believed to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The procedure must include contact with the student, and the student's parents or guardian in the case of a minor student.

124D.13 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE) PROGRAMS.

Subd. 13. **Plan and program data submission requirements.** (a) An early childhood family education program must submit a biennial plan addressing the requirements of subdivision 2 for approval by the commissioner. The plan must also describe how the program provides parenting education and ensures participation of families representative of the school district. A school district must submit the plan for approval by the commissioner in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. One-half of districts, as determined by the commissioner, must first submit a biennial plan by April 1, 2009, and the remaining districts must first submit a plan by April 1, 2010.

(b) Districts receiving early childhood family education revenue under section 124D.135 must submit annual program data to the department by July 15 in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

(c) Beginning with levies for fiscal year 2011, a school district must submit its annual program data to the department before it may certify a levy under section 124D.135. Districts selected by the commissioner to submit a biennial plan by April 1, 2009, must also have an approved plan on file with the commissioner before certifying a levy under section 124D.135 for fiscal year 2011. Beginning with levies for fiscal year 2012, all districts must submit annual program data and have an approved biennial plan on file with the commissioner before certifying a levy under section 124D.135.