

574.4  
574.5

**ARTICLE 39**  
**EARLY EDUCATION**

574.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.151, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

574.7 Subd. 2. **Program requirements.** (a) A voluntary prekindergarten program provider  
574.8 must:

574.9 (1) provide instruction through play-based learning to foster children's social and  
574.10 emotional development, cognitive development, physical and motor development, and  
574.11 language and literacy skills, including the native language and literacy skills of English  
574.12 learners, to the extent practicable;

574.13 (2) measure each child's cognitive and social skills using a formative measure aligned  
574.14 to the state's early learning standards when the child enters and again before the child leaves  
574.15 the program, screening and progress monitoring measures, and ~~others~~ other age-appropriate  
574.16 versions from the state-approved menu of kindergarten entry profile measures;

574.17 (3) provide comprehensive program content including the implementation of curriculum,  
574.18 assessment, and instructional strategies aligned with the state early learning standards, and  
574.19 kindergarten through grade 3 academic standards;

574.20 (4) provide instructional content and activities that are of sufficient length and intensity  
574.21 to address learning needs including offering a program with at least 350 hours of instruction  
574.22 per school year for a prekindergarten student;

574.23 (5) provide voluntary prekindergarten instructional staff salaries comparable to the  
574.24 salaries of local kindergarten through grade 12 instructional staff;

574.25 (6) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with families, community-based  
574.26 prekindergarten programs, and school district kindergarten programs;

574.27 (7) involve parents in program planning and transition planning by implementing parent  
574.28 engagement strategies that include culturally and linguistically responsive activities in  
574.29 prekindergarten through third grade that are aligned with early childhood family education  
574.30 under section 124D.13;

574.31 (8) coordinate with relevant community-based services, including health and social  
574.32 service agencies, to ensure children have access to comprehensive services;

155.13  
155.14

**ARTICLE 8**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

155.15 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.151, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

155.16 Subd. 2. **Program requirements.** (a) A voluntary prekindergarten program provider  
155.17 must:

155.18 (1) provide instruction through play-based learning to foster children's social and  
155.19 emotional development, cognitive development, physical and motor development, and  
155.20 language and literacy skills, including the native language and literacy skills of English  
155.21 learners, to the extent practicable;

155.22 (2) measure each child's cognitive and social skills using a formative measure aligned  
155.23 to the state's early learning standards when the child enters and again before the child leaves  
155.24 the program, screening and progress monitoring measures, and ~~others~~ other age-appropriate  
155.25 versions from the state-approved menu of kindergarten entry profile measures;

155.26 (3) provide comprehensive program content including the implementation of curriculum,  
155.27 assessment, and instructional strategies aligned with the state early learning standards, and  
155.28 kindergarten through grade 3 academic standards;

155.29 (4) provide instructional content and activities that are of sufficient length and intensity  
155.30 to address learning needs including offering a program with at least 350 hours of instruction  
155.31 per school year for a prekindergarten student;

156.1 (5) provide voluntary prekindergarten instructional staff salaries comparable to the  
156.2 salaries of local kindergarten through grade 12 instructional staff;

156.3 (6) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with families, community-based  
156.4 prekindergarten programs, and school district kindergarten programs;

156.5 (7) involve parents in program planning and transition planning by implementing parent  
156.6 engagement strategies that include culturally and linguistically responsive activities in  
156.7 prekindergarten through third grade that are aligned with early childhood family education  
156.8 under section 124D.13;

156.9 (8) coordinate with relevant community-based services, including health and social  
156.10 service agencies, to ensure children have access to comprehensive services;

575.1 (9) coordinate with all relevant school district programs and services including early  
575.2 childhood special education, homeless students, and English learners;

575.3 (10) ensure staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and a maximum group size of 20 children;

575.4 (11) provide high-quality coordinated professional development, training, and coaching  
575.5 for both school district and community-based early learning providers that is informed by  
575.6 a measure of adult-child interactions and enables teachers to be highly knowledgeable in  
575.7 early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language development  
575.8 programs, and instruction; and

575.9 (12) implement strategies that support the alignment of professional development,  
575.10 instruction, assessments, and prekindergarten through grade 3 curricula.

575.11 (b) A voluntary prekindergarten program must have teachers knowledgeable in early  
575.12 childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language programs, and  
575.13 instruction.

575.14 (c) Districts and charter schools must include their strategy for implementing and  
575.15 measuring the impact of their voluntary prekindergarten program under section 120B.11  
575.16 and provide results in their world's best workforce annual summary to the commissioner of  
575.17 education.

575.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.151, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

575.19 Subd. 3. **Mixed delivery of services.** (a) A district or charter school may contract with  
575.20 a charter school, Head Start or child care centers, family child care programs licensed under  
575.21 section 245A.03, or a community-based organization to provide eligible children with  
575.22 developmentally appropriate services that meet the program requirements in subdivision 2.  
575.23 Components of a mixed-delivery plan include strategies for recruitment, contracting, and  
575.24 monitoring of fiscal compliance and program quality.

575.25 (b) For fiscal year 2020 and later, for any district or charter school serving more children  
575.26 under this section than in fiscal year 2019, the district or charter school must contract with  
575.27 a three- or four-star Parent Aware rated program operated by a charter school, Head Start,  
575.28 child care center, licensed family child care, or community-based organization for at least  
575.29 40 percent of the spaces for the additional eligible children.

576.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 5, is amended  
576.2 to read:

156.11 (9) coordinate with all relevant school district programs and services including early  
156.12 childhood special education, homeless students, and English learners;

156.13 (10) ensure staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and a maximum group size of 20 children;

156.14 (11) provide high-quality coordinated professional development, training, and coaching  
156.15 for both school district and community-based early learning providers that is informed by  
156.16 a measure of adult-child interactions and enables teachers to be highly knowledgeable in  
156.17 early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language development  
156.18 programs, and instruction; and

156.19 (12) implement strategies that support the alignment of professional development,  
156.20 instruction, assessments, and prekindergarten through grade 3 curricula.

156.21 (b) A voluntary prekindergarten program must have teachers knowledgeable in early  
156.22 childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language programs, and  
156.23 instruction.

156.24 (c) Districts and charter schools must include their strategy for implementing and  
156.25 measuring the impact of their voluntary prekindergarten program under section 120B.11  
156.26 and provide results in their world's best workforce annual summary to the commissioner of  
156.27 education.

156.28 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 5, is amended  
156.29 to read:

576.3 Subd. 5. **Application process; priority for high poverty schools.** (a) ~~To qualify for~~  
576.4 ~~program approval for fiscal year 2017, a district or charter school must submit an application~~  
576.5 ~~to the commissioner by July 1, 2016. To qualify for program approval for fiscal year 2018~~  
576.6 ~~and later, a district or charter school must submit an application to the commissioner by~~  
576.7 January 30 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the program will be  
576.8 implemented. The application must include:

576.9 (1) a description of the proposed program, including the number of hours per week the  
576.10 program will be offered at each school site or mixed-delivery location;

576.11 (2) an estimate of the number of eligible children to be served in the program at each  
576.12 school site or mixed-delivery location; and

576.13 (3) a statement of assurances signed by the superintendent or charter school director that  
576.14 the proposed program meets the requirements of subdivision 2.

576.15 (b) The commissioner must review all applications ~~submitted for fiscal year 2017 by~~  
576.16 ~~August 1, 2016, and must review all applications submitted for fiscal year 2018 and later~~  
576.17 by March 1 of the fiscal year in which the applications are received and determine whether  
576.18 each application meets the requirements of paragraph (a).

576.19 (c) The commissioner must divide all applications for new or expanded voluntary  
576.20 prekindergarten programs under this section meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) and  
576.21 school readiness plus programs into ~~four~~ groups as follows: the Minneapolis ~~and~~ St. Paul  
576.22 school ~~districts~~; other school districts located in the metropolitan equity region as defined  
576.23 in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; school districts located in the rural equity region as  
576.24 defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; and charter schools. Within each group, the  
576.25 applications must be ordered by rank using a sliding scale based on the following criteria:

576.26 (1) concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches by  
576.27 school site on October 1 of the previous school year. A school site may contract to partner  
576.28 with a community-based provider or Head Start under subdivision 3 or establish an early  
576.29 childhood center and use the concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or  
576.30 reduced-price meals from a specific school site as long as those eligible children are  
576.31 prioritized and guaranteed services at the mixed-delivery site or early education center. For  
576.32 school district programs to be operated at locations that do not have free and reduced-price  
576.33 lunch concentration data for kindergarten programs for October 1 of the previous school  
576.34 year, including mixed-delivery programs, the school district average concentration of  
577.1 kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches must be used for the rank  
577.2 ordering;

156.30 Subd. 5. **Application process; priority for high poverty schools.** (a) ~~To qualify for~~  
156.31 ~~program approval for fiscal year 2017, a district or charter school must submit an application~~  
156.32 ~~to the commissioner by July 1, 2016. To qualify for program approval for fiscal year 2018~~  
157.1 ~~and later, a district or charter school must submit an application to the commissioner by~~  
157.2 ~~January 30 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the program will be~~  
157.3 ~~implemented. The application must include:~~  
157.4

157.5 (1) a description of the proposed program, including the number of hours per week the  
157.6 program will be offered at each school site or mixed-delivery location;

157.7 (2) an estimate of the number of eligible children to be served in the program at each  
157.8 school site or mixed-delivery location; and

157.9 (3) a statement of assurances signed by the superintendent or charter school director that  
157.10 the proposed program meets the requirements of subdivision 2 or section 124D.152,  
157.11 subdivision 2.

157.12 (b) The commissioner must review all applications ~~submitted for fiscal year 2017 by~~  
157.13 ~~August 1, 2016, and must review all applications submitted for fiscal year 2018 and later~~  
157.14 by March 1 of the fiscal year in which the applications are received and determine whether  
157.15 each application meets the requirements of paragraph (a).

157.16 (c) The commissioner must divide all applications for new or expanded voluntary  
157.17 prekindergarten programs under this section and school readiness plus programs under  
157.18 section 124D.152 meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) and school readiness plus  
157.19 programs into ~~four~~ five groups as follows: the Minneapolis ~~and~~ school district; the St. Paul  
157.20 school ~~districts~~ district; other school districts located in the metropolitan equity region as  
157.21 defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; school districts located in the rural equity region  
157.22 as defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; and charter schools. Within each group, the  
157.23 applications must be ordered by rank using a sliding scale based on the following criteria:

157.24 (1) concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches by  
157.25 school site on October 1 of the previous school year. A school site may contract to partner  
157.26 with a community-based provider or Head Start under subdivision 3 or establish an early  
157.27 childhood center and use the concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or  
157.28 reduced-price meals from a specific school site as long as those eligible children are  
157.29 prioritized and guaranteed services at the mixed-delivery site or early education center. For  
157.30 school district programs to be operated at locations that do not have free and reduced-price  
157.31 lunch concentration data for kindergarten programs for October 1 of the previous school  
157.32 year, including mixed-delivery programs, the school district average concentration of  
157.33 kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches must be used for the rank  
157.34 ordering;

577.3 (2) presence or absence of a three- or four-star Parent Aware rated program within the  
577.4 school district or close proximity of the district. School sites with the highest concentration  
577.5 of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that do not have a three-  
577.6 or four-star Parent Aware program within the district or close proximity of the district shall  
577.7 receive the highest priority, and school sites with the lowest concentration of kindergarten  
577.8 students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that have a three- or four-star Parent  
577.9 Aware rated program within the district or close proximity of the district shall receive the  
577.10 lowest priority; and

577.11 (3) whether the district has implemented a mixed delivery system.

577.12 (d) The limit on participation for the programs as specified in subdivision 6 must initially  
577.13 be allocated among the ~~four~~ groups based on each group's percentage share of the statewide  
577.14 kindergarten enrollment on October 1 of the previous school year. Within each group, the  
577.15 participation limit for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 must first be allocated to school sites  
577.16 approved for aid in the previous year to ensure that those sites are funded for the same  
577.17 number of participants as approved for the previous year. The remainder of the participation  
577.18 limit for each group must be allocated among school sites in priority order until that region's  
577.19 share of the participation limit is reached. If the participation limit is not reached for all  
577.20 groups, the remaining amount must be allocated to the highest priority school sites, as  
577.21 designated under this section, not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis. ~~For~~  
577.22 ~~fiscal year 2020 and later, the participation limit must first be allocated to school sites~~  
577.23 ~~approved for aid in fiscal year 2017, and then to school sites approved for aid in fiscal year~~  
577.24 ~~2018 based on the statewide rankings under paragraph (c).~~

577.25 (e) Once a school site or a mixed delivery site under subdivision 3 is approved for aid  
577.26 under this subdivision, it shall remain eligible for aid if it continues to meet program  
577.27 requirements, regardless of changes in the concentration of students eligible for free or  
577.28 reduced-price lunches.

577.29 (f) If the total number of participants approved based on applications submitted under  
577.30 paragraph (a) is less than the participation limit under subdivision 6, the commissioner must  
577.31 notify all school districts and charter schools of the amount that remains available within  
577.32 30 days of the initial application deadline under paragraph (a), and complete a second round  
577.33 of allocations based on applications received within 60 days of the initial application deadline.

578.1 (g) Procedures for approving applications submitted under paragraph (f) shall be the  
578.2 same as specified in paragraphs (a) to (d), except that the allocations shall be made to the  
578.3 highest priority school sites not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis.

578.4 (h) ~~For fiscal year 2020 and later, the commissioner may waive the mixed-delivery~~  
578.5 ~~requirements under subdivisions 3 and 6 for an otherwise qualified applicant that provides~~

158.1 (2) presence or absence of a three- or four-star Parent Aware rated program within the  
158.2 school district or close proximity of the district. School sites with the highest concentration  
158.3 of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that do not have a three-  
158.4 or four-star Parent Aware program within the district or close proximity of the district shall  
158.5 receive the highest priority, and school sites with the lowest concentration of kindergarten  
158.6 students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that have a three- or four-star Parent  
158.7 Aware rated program within the district or close proximity of the district shall receive the  
158.8 lowest priority; and

158.9 (3) whether the district has implemented a mixed delivery system.

158.10 (d) The limit on participation for the programs as specified in subdivision 6 must initially  
158.11 be allocated among the ~~four~~ ~~five~~ groups based on each group's percentage share of the  
158.12 statewide kindergarten enrollment on October 1 of the previous school year. Within each  
158.13 group, the participation limit for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 must first be allocated to school  
158.14 sites approved for aid in the previous year to ensure that those sites are funded for the same  
158.15 number of participants as approved for the previous year. The remainder of the participation  
158.16 limit for each group must be allocated among school sites in priority order until that region's  
158.17 share of the participation limit is reached. If the participation limit is not reached for all  
158.18 groups, the remaining amount must be allocated to the highest priority school sites, as  
158.19 designated under this section, not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis. ~~For~~  
158.20 ~~fiscal year 2020 and later, the participation limit must first be allocated to school sites~~  
158.21 ~~approved for aid in fiscal year 2017, and then to school sites approved for aid in fiscal year~~  
158.22 ~~2018 based on the statewide rankings under paragraph (c).~~

158.23 (e) Once a school site or a mixed delivery site under subdivision 3 is approved for aid  
158.24 under this subdivision, it shall remain eligible for aid if it continues to meet program  
158.25 requirements, regardless of changes in the concentration of students eligible for free or  
158.26 reduced-price lunches.

158.27 (f) If the total number of participants approved based on applications submitted under  
158.28 paragraph (a) is less than the participation limit under subdivision 6, the commissioner must  
158.29 notify all school districts and charter schools of the amount that remains available within  
158.30 30 days of the initial application deadline under paragraph (a), and complete a second round  
158.31 of allocations based on applications received within 60 days of the initial application deadline.

158.32 (g) Procedures for approving applications submitted under paragraph (f) shall be the  
158.33 same as specified in paragraphs (a) to (d), except that the allocations shall be made to the  
158.34 highest priority school sites not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis.

578.6 documented evidence that the school district or charter school was unable to provide a  
578.7 mixed-delivery program because of the unavailability of providers willing to contract with  
578.8 the school district or charter school or other factors beyond their control.

578.9 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 6, is amended  
578.10 to read:

578.11 Subd. 6. **Participation limits.** (a) Notwithstanding section 126C.05, subdivision 1,  
578.12 paragraph (d), the pupil units for a voluntary prekindergarten program for an eligible school  
578.13 district or charter school must not exceed 60 percent of the kindergarten pupil units for that  
578.14 school district or charter school under section 126C.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

578.15 ~~(b) In reviewing applications under subdivision 5, the commissioner must limit the~~  
578.16 ~~estimated state aid entitlement approved under this section to \$27,092,000 for fiscal year~~  
578.17 ~~2017. If the actual state aid entitlement based on final data exceeds the limit in any year,~~  
578.18 ~~the aid of the participating districts must be prorated so as not to exceed the limit.~~

578.19 ~~(e)~~ (b) The commissioner must limit the total number of funded participants in the  
578.20 voluntary prekindergarten program under this section to not more than 3,160.

578.21 ~~(d)~~ (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (e) (b), the commissioner must limit the total number  
578.22 of participants in the voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus programs to not  
578.23 more than 6,160 participants for fiscal year 2018 and 7,160 participants for fiscal year 2019.

578.24 (d) For fiscal year 2020 and later, at least 40 percent of the number of program  
578.25 participants served under this section in excess of 3,160 participants must be served through  
578.26 a mixed delivery of services according to subdivision 3.

159.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 6, is amended  
159.2 to read:

159.3 Subd. 6. **Participation limits.** (a) Notwithstanding section 126C.05, subdivision 1,  
159.4 paragraph (d), the pupil units for a voluntary prekindergarten program for an eligible school  
159.5 district or charter school must not exceed 60 percent of the kindergarten pupil units for that  
159.6 school district or charter school under section 126C.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

159.7 ~~(b) In reviewing applications under subdivision 5, the commissioner must limit the~~  
159.8 ~~estimated state aid entitlement approved under this section to \$27,092,000 for fiscal year~~  
159.9 ~~2017. If the actual state aid entitlement based on final data exceeds the limit in any year,~~  
159.10 ~~the aid of the participating districts must be prorated so as not to exceed the limit.~~

159.11 ~~(e) The commissioner must limit the total number of funded participants in the voluntary~~  
159.12 ~~prekindergarten program under this section to not more than 3,160.~~

159.13 ~~(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the commissioner must limit the total number of~~  
159.14 ~~participants in the voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus programs to not~~  
159.15 ~~more than 6,160 participants for fiscal year 2018 and 7,160 participants for fiscal year 2019,~~  
159.16 ~~and later.~~

159.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2020 and later.

159.18 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.151, is amended by adding a subdivision  
159.19 to read:

159.20 Subd. 7. **Parental notice and program choice.** (a) At the time a child enrolls in a  
159.21 voluntary prekindergarten or school readiness plus program, the school district or charter  
159.22 school must notify the child's parent that the child may transfer to a qualifying early learning  
159.23 scholarship program at any time.

159.24 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the parent of a child enrolled in a voluntary  
 159.25 prekindergarten program under this section, or a school readiness plus program under section  
 159.26 124D.152, may withdraw the child from either of these programs and enroll the child in a  
 159.27 qualifying program under section 124D.165. The Department of Education must calculate  
 159.28 the number of hours of instruction provided by the school district or charter school and  
 159.29 provide the proportionate remaining portion of the funds to the qualifying early learning  
 159.30 scholarship provider. The proportionate allocation of hours must be calculated based on the  
 159.31 hours of service provided to the child up to the day the school district or charter school  
 159.32 receives written notice from the parent of the parent's intent to transfer the child to a qualified  
 159.33 early learning scholarship provider.

160.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for fiscal year 2020 and later.

160.2 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.162, is amended to read:

160.3 **124D.162 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT.**

160.4 Subdivision 1. **Purpose of assessment.** The purpose of kindergarten readiness assessment  
 160.5 is to determine whether children are prepared to enter school, to understand the connection  
 160.6 between kindergarten readiness and later academic achievement, and to produce data that  
 160.7 can inform the effectiveness of early childhood programs.

160.8 Subd. 2. **Commissioner duties.** The commissioner of education ~~may~~ must implement  
 160.9 a kindergarten readiness assessment representative of incoming kindergartners. The  
 160.10 assessment must be based on the Department of Education Kindergarten Readiness  
 160.11 Assessment at kindergarten entrance study. The commissioner of education must provide  
 160.12 districts with a process for measuring, on a comparable basis, the kindergarten readiness of  
 160.13 incoming kindergartners. Districts that use the commissioner-provided process must annually  
 160.14 report kindergarten readiness results under this section to the department in the form and  
 160.15 manner determined by the commissioner. The commissioner must publicly report  
 160.16 kindergarten readiness results as part of the performance reports required under section  
 160.17 120B.36 and consistent with section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2).

## S3086-2

68.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is  
 68.4 amended to read:

68.5 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early learning scholarship,  
 68.6 parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

68.7 (1) have an eligible child; and

160.18 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is amended  
 160.19 to read:

160.20 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early learning scholarship,  
 160.21 parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

160.22 (1) have an eligible child; and

68.8 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income in the  
 68.9 current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in the free  
 68.10 and reduced-price lunch program or Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School  
 68.11 Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food Distribution  
 68.12 Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States Code, title 7, sections  
 68.13 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act  
 68.14 of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J; child care assistance  
 68.15 programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or placement  
 68.16 in foster care under section 260C.212. Parents or guardians are not required to provide  
 68.17 income verification under this clause if the child is an eligible child under paragraph (b),  
 68.18 clause (4) or (5).

68.19 (b) An "eligible child" means a child who has not yet enrolled in kindergarten and is:

68.20 (1) at least three but not yet five years of age on September 1 of the current school year;

68.21 (2) a sibling from birth to age five of a child who has been awarded a scholarship under  
 68.22 this section provided the sibling attends the same program as long as funds are available;

68.23 (3) the child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course  
 68.24 of study for a high school equivalency test; ~~or~~

68.25 ~~(4) homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.~~

68.26 (4) designated as a child in need of protection or services as defined under section  
 68.27 260C.007; or

68.28 (5) designated as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
 68.29 Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

68.30 (c) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to receive  
 68.31 a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section 120A.20  
 68.32 and as long as funds are available.

69.1 (d) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the purposes  
 69.2 of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L, Minnesota  
 69.3 family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs under chapter  
 69.4 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of  
 69.5 2007.

69.6 (e) A child from an adjoining state whose family resides at a Minnesota address as  
 69.7 assigned by the United States Postal Service, who has received developmental screening

160.23 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income in the  
 160.24 current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in the free  
 160.25 and reduced-price lunch program or Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School  
 160.26 Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food Distribution  
 160.27 Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States Code, title 7, sections  
 160.28 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act  
 160.29 of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J; child care assistance  
 160.30 programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or placement  
 160.31 in foster care under section 260C.212. Parents or guardians are not required to provide  
 161.1 income verification under this clause if the child is an eligible child under paragraph (b),  
 161.2 clause (4) or (5).

161.3 (b) An "eligible child" means a child who has not yet enrolled in kindergarten and is:

161.4 (1) at least three but not yet five years of age on September 1 of the current school year;

161.5 (2) a sibling from birth to age five of a child who has been awarded a scholarship under  
 161.6 this section provided the sibling attends the same program as long as funds are available;

161.7 (3) the child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course  
 161.8 of study for a high school equivalency test; ~~or~~

161.9 ~~(4) homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.~~

161.10 (4) designated as a child in need of protection or services as defined under section  
 161.11 260C.007; or

161.12 (5) designated as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
 161.13 Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

161.14 (c) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to receive  
 161.15 a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section 120A.20  
 161.16 and as long as funds are available.

161.17 (d) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the purposes  
 161.18 of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L, Minnesota  
 161.19 family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs under chapter  
 161.20 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of  
 161.21 2007.

161.22 (e) A child from an adjoining state whose family resides at a Minnesota address as  
 161.23 assigned by the United States Postal Service, who has received developmental screening

69.8 under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19, who intends to enroll in a Minnesota school district,  
69.9 and whose family meets the criteria of paragraph (a) is eligible for an early learning  
69.10 scholarship under this section.

69.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is amended  
69.12 to read:

69.13 Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application timelines  
69.14 and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational needs of eligible  
69.15 families and programs. The commissioner must give highest priority to applications from  
69.16 children who:

69.17 (1) have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or a course of  
69.18 study for a high school equivalency test;

69.19 (2) are in foster care or otherwise in need of protection or services; or

69.20 (3) have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months, as defined under the federal  
69.21 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

69.22 The commissioner may prioritize applications on additional factors including family  
69.23 income, geographic location, and whether the child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly  
69.24 funded program providing early education or child care services.

69.25 (b) The commissioner shall establish a target for the average scholarship amount per  
69.26 child based on the results of the rate survey conducted under section 119B.02.

69.27 (c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in or  
69.28 on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the  
69.29 commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, each year of the  
69.30 program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children than current funding  
69.31 provides. The commissioner may designate a predetermined number of scholarship slots  
69.32 for that program and notify the program of that number. For fiscal year 2018 and later, the  
69.33 statewide amount of funding directly designated by the commissioner must not exceed the  
70.1 funding directly designated for fiscal year 2017. Beginning July 1, 2016, a school district  
70.2 or Head Start program qualifying under this paragraph may use its established registration  
70.3 process to enroll scholarship recipients and may verify a scholarship recipient's family  
70.4 income in the same manner as for other program participants.

161.24 under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19, who intends to enroll in a Minnesota school district,  
161.25 and whose family meets the criteria of paragraph (a) is eligible for an early learning  
161.26 scholarship under this section.

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

161.28 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is amended  
161.29 to read:

161.30 Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application timelines  
161.31 and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational needs of eligible  
162.1 families and programs. The commissioner must give highest priority to applications from  
162.2 children who:

162.3 (1) have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or a course of  
162.4 study for a high school equivalency test;

162.5 (2) are in foster care or otherwise in need of protection or services; or

162.6 (3) have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months, as defined under the federal  
162.7 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

162.8 The commissioner may prioritize applications on additional factors including family  
162.9 income, geographic location, and whether the child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly  
162.10 funded program providing early education or child care services.

162.11 (b) The commissioner shall establish a target for the average scholarship amount per  
162.12 child based on the results of the rate survey conducted under section 119B.02.

162.13 (c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in or  
162.14 on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the  
162.15 commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, each year of the  
162.16 program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children than current funding  
162.17 provides. The commissioner may designate a predetermined number of scholarship slots  
162.18 for that program and notify the program of that number. For fiscal year 2018 and later, the  
162.19 statewide amount of funding directly designated by the commissioner must not exceed the  
162.20 funding directly designated for fiscal year 2017. Beginning July 1, 2016, a school district  
162.21 or Head Start program qualifying under this paragraph may use its established registration  
162.22 process to enroll scholarship recipients and may verify a scholarship recipient's family  
162.23 income in the same manner as for other program participants.



70.5 (d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has not  
70.6 been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ten months of the  
70.7 awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in order  
70.8 to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one scholarship  
70.9 in a 12-month period.

70.10 (e) A child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development screening  
70.11 under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening within 90 days of first  
70.12 attending an eligible program; or within 90 days after the child's third birthday if a child  
70.13 under the age of three is awarded a scholarship.

70.14 (f) For fiscal year 2017 and later, a school district or Head Start program enrolling  
70.15 scholarship recipients under paragraph (c) may apply to the commissioner, in the form and  
70.16 manner prescribed by the commissioner, for direct payment of state aid. Upon receipt of  
70.17 the application, the commissioner must pay each program directly for each approved  
70.18 scholarship recipient enrolled under paragraph (c) according to the metered payment system  
70.19 or another schedule established by the commissioner.

70.20 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is amended  
70.21 to read:

70.22 Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept an  
70.23 early learning scholarship, a program must:

70.24 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section 124D.142;  
70.25 and

70.26 (2) beginning July 1, 2020, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating and  
70.27 improvement system.

70.28 (b) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not  
70.29 supplant federal funding.

70.30 (c) ~~Notwithstanding paragraph (a), all Minnesota early learning foundation scholarship~~  
70.31 ~~program pilot sites are eligible to accept an early learning scholarship under this section.~~

162.24 (d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has not  
162.25 been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ten months of the  
162.26 awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in order  
162.27 to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one scholarship  
162.28 in a 12-month period.

162.29 (e) A child over the age of three who receives a scholarship ~~who and~~ has not completed  
162.30 development screening under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening  
162.31 within 90 days of first attending an eligible program. A child who receives a scholarship  
162.32 before the age of three must complete the developmental screening no later than 90 days  
162.33 after the child's third birthday.

163.1 (f) For fiscal year 2017 and later, a school district or Head Start program enrolling  
163.2 scholarship recipients under paragraph (c) may apply to the commissioner, in the form and  
163.3 manner prescribed by the commissioner, for direct payment of state aid. Upon receipt of  
163.4 the application, the commissioner must pay each program directly for each approved  
163.5 scholarship recipient enrolled under paragraph (c) according to the metered payment system  
163.6 or another schedule established by the commissioner.

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

163.8 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is amended  
163.9 to read:

163.10 Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept an  
163.11 early learning scholarship, a program must:

163.12 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section 124D.142;  
163.13 and

163.14 (2) beginning July 1, 2020, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating and  
163.15 improvement system.

163.16 (b) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not  
163.17 supplant federal funding.

163.18 (c) ~~Notwithstanding paragraph (a), all Minnesota early learning foundation scholarship~~  
163.19 ~~program pilot sites are eligible to accept an early learning scholarship under this section.~~

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

**NOTE: FROM SELF-SUFFICIENCY ARTICLE 9, SECTION 2**

71.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.99, subdivision 3, is amended  
71.2 to read:

71.3 Subd. 3. **Administration; design.** (a) The commissioner shall establish program  
71.4 requirements, an application process and timeline for each tier of grants specified in  
71.5 subdivision 4, criteria for evaluation of applications, and a grant awards process. The  
71.6 commissioner's process must minimize administrative costs, minimize burdens for applicants  
71.7 and grant recipients, and provide a framework that permits flexibility in program design  
71.8 and implementation among grant recipients.

71.9 (b) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall design the program to align with  
71.10 programs implemented or proposed by organizations in Minnesota that:

71.11 (1) identify and increase the capacity of organizations that are focused on achieving  
71.12 data-driven, locally controlled positive outcomes for children and youth throughout an entire  
71.13 neighborhood or geographic area through programs such as Strive Together, Promise  
71.14 Neighborhood, and the Education Partnerships Coalition members;

71.15 (2) build a continuum of educational family and community supports with academically  
71.16 rigorous schools at the center;

71.17 (3) maximize program efficiencies by integrating programmatic activities and eliminating  
71.18 administrative barriers;

71.19 (4) develop local infrastructure needed to sustain and scale up proven and effective  
71.20 solutions beyond the initial neighborhood or geographic area; ~~and~~

71.21 (5) utilize appropriate outcome measures based on unique community needs and interests  
71.22 and apply rigorous evaluation on a periodic basis to be used to both monitor outcomes and  
71.23 allow for continuous improvements to systems;

71.24 (6) collect and utilize data to improve student outcomes;

71.25 (7) share disaggregated performance data with the community to set community-level  
71.26 outcomes;

71.27 (8) employ continuous improvement processes;

71.28 (9) have an anchor entity to manage the partnership;

169.7 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.99, subdivision 3, is amended  
169.8 to read:

169.9 Subd. 3. **Administration; design.** (a) The commissioner shall establish program  
169.10 requirements, an application process and timeline for each tier of grants specified in  
169.11 subdivision 4, criteria for evaluation of applications, and a grant awards process. The  
169.12 commissioner's process must minimize administrative costs, minimize burdens for applicants  
169.13 and grant recipients, and provide a framework that permits flexibility in program design  
169.14 and implementation among grant recipients.

169.15 (b) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall design the program to align with  
169.16 programs implemented or proposed by organizations in Minnesota that:

169.17 (1) identify and increase the capacity of organizations that are focused on achieving  
169.18 data-driven, locally controlled positive outcomes for children and youth throughout an entire  
169.19 neighborhood or geographic area through programs such as Strive Together, Promise  
169.20 Neighborhood, and the Education Partnerships Coalition members;

169.21 (2) build a continuum of educational family and community supports with academically  
169.22 rigorous schools at the center;

169.23 (3) maximize program efficiencies by integrating programmatic activities and eliminating  
169.24 administrative barriers;

169.25 (4) develop local infrastructure needed to sustain and scale up proven and effective  
169.26 solutions beyond the initial neighborhood or geographic area; ~~and~~

169.27 (5) utilize appropriate outcome measures based on unique community needs and interests  
169.28 and apply rigorous evaluation on a periodic basis to be used to both monitor outcomes and  
169.29 allow for continuous improvements to systems;

169.30 (6) collect and utilize data to improve student outcomes;

169.31 (7) share disaggregated performance data with the community to set community-level  
169.32 outcomes;

170.1 (8) employ continuous improvement processes;

170.2 (9) have an anchor entity to manage the partnership;

71.29 (10) convene a cross-sector leadership group and have a documented accountability  
71.30 structure; and

71.31 (11) demonstrate use of nonstate funds, from multiple sources, including in-kind  
71.32 contributions.

72.1 (c) A grant recipient's supportive services programming must address:

72.2 (1) kindergarten readiness and youth development;

72.3 (2) grade 3 reading proficiency;

72.4 (3) middle school mathematics;

72.5 ~~(3)~~ (4) high school graduation;

72.6 ~~(4)~~ (5) postsecondary educational ~~attainment~~ enrollment;

72.7 (6) postsecondary education completion;

72.8 ~~(5)~~ (7) physical and mental health;

72.9 ~~(6)~~ (8) development of career skills and readiness;

72.10 ~~(7)~~ (9) parental engagement and development;

72.11 ~~(8)~~ (10) community engagement and programmatic alignment; and

72.12 ~~(9)~~ (11) reduction of remedial education.

72.13 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with grant recipients, must:

72.14 (1) develop and revise core indicators of progress toward outcomes specifying impacts  
72.15 for each tier identified under subdivision 4;

72.16 (2) establish a reporting system for grant recipients to measure program outcomes using  
72.17 data sources and program goals; and

72.18 (3) evaluate effectiveness based on the core indicators established by each partnership  
72.19 for each tier.

170.3 (10) convene a cross-sector leadership group and have a documented accountability  
170.4 structure; and

170.5 (11) demonstrate use of nonstate funds, from multiple sources, including in-kind  
170.6 contributions.

170.7 (c) A grant recipient's supportive services programming must address:

170.8 (1) kindergarten readiness and youth development;

170.9 (2) grade 3 reading proficiency;

170.10 (3) middle school mathematics;

170.11 ~~(3)~~ (4) high school graduation;

170.12 ~~(4)~~ (5) postsecondary educational ~~attainment~~ enrollment;

170.13 (6) postsecondary education completion;

170.14 ~~(5)~~ (7) physical and mental health;

170.15 ~~(6)~~ (8) development of career skills and readiness;

170.16 ~~(7)~~ (9) parental engagement and development;

170.17 ~~(8)~~ (10) community engagement and programmatic alignment; and

170.18 ~~(9)~~ (11) reduction of remedial education.

170.19 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with grant recipients, must:

170.20 (1) develop and revise core indicators of progress toward outcomes specifying impacts  
170.21 for each tier identified under subdivision 4;

170.22 (2) establish a reporting system for grant recipients to measure program outcomes using  
170.23 data sources and program goals; and

170.24 (3) evaluate effectiveness based on the core indicators established by each partnership  
170.25 for each tier.

72.20 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.99, subdivision 5, is amended  
72.21 to read:

72.22 Subd. 5. **Grants.** (a) The commissioner shall award Tier 1 and Tier 2 grants to qualifying  
72.23 recipients that can demonstrate a nonstate source of funds, including in-kind contributions.

72.24 (b) For Tier 2 grants authorized for fiscal year 2020 and later, the commissioner must  
72.25 give priority to otherwise qualified past grant recipients that have made progress toward  
72.26 identified program outcomes under subdivision 3, paragraph (d).

163.21 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 126C.05, subdivision 1, is amended  
163.22 to read:

163.23 Subdivision 1. **Pupil unit.** Pupil units for each Minnesota resident pupil under the age  
163.24 of 21 or who meets the requirements of section 120A.20, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), in  
163.25 average daily membership enrolled in the district of residence, in another district under  
163.26 sections 123A.05 to 123A.08, 124D.03, 124D.08, or 124D.68; in a charter school under  
163.27 chapter 124E; or for whom the resident district pays tuition under section 123A.18, 123A.22,  
163.28 123A.30, 123A.32, 123A.44, 123A.488, 123B.88, subdivision 4, 124D.04, 124D.05, 125A.03  
163.29 to 125A.24, 125A.51, or 125A.65, shall be counted according to this subdivision.

163.30 (a) A prekindergarten pupil with a disability who is enrolled in a program approved by  
163.31 the commissioner and has an individualized education program is counted as the ratio of  
164.1 the number of hours of assessment and education service to 825 times 1.0 with a minimum  
164.2 average daily membership of 0.28, but not more than 1.0 pupil unit.

164.3 (b) A prekindergarten pupil who is assessed but determined not to be disabled is counted  
164.4 as the ratio of the number of hours of assessment service to 825 times 1.0.

164.5 (c) A kindergarten pupil with a disability who is enrolled in a program approved by the  
164.6 commissioner is counted as the ratio of the number of hours of assessment and education  
164.7 services required in the fiscal year by the pupil's individualized education program to 875,  
164.8 but not more than one.

164.9 (d) A prekindergarten pupil who is not included in paragraph (a) or (b) and is enrolled  
164.10 in an approved voluntary prekindergarten program under section 124D.151 is counted as  
164.11 the ratio of the number of hours of instruction to 850 times 1.0, but not more than 0.6 pupil  
164.12 units.

164.13 (e) A kindergarten pupil who is not included in paragraph (c) is counted as 1.0 pupil  
164.14 unit if the pupil is enrolled in a free all-day, every day kindergarten program available to

164.15 all kindergarten pupils at the pupil's school that meets the minimum hours requirement in  
 164.16 section 120A.41, or is counted as .55 pupil unit, if the pupil is not enrolled in a free all-day,  
 164.17 every day kindergarten program available to all kindergarten pupils at the pupil's school.

164.18 (f) A pupil who is in any of grades 1 to 6 is counted as 1.0 pupil unit.

164.19 (g) A pupil who is in any of grades 7 to 12 is counted as 1.2 pupil units.

164.20 (h) A pupil who is in the postsecondary enrollment options program is counted as 1.2  
 164.21 pupil units.

164.22 (i) ~~For fiscal years 2018 and 2019 only,~~ A prekindergarten pupil who:

164.23 (1) is not included in paragraph (a), (b), or (d);

164.24 (2) is enrolled in a school readiness plus program; and

164.25 (3) has one or more of the risk factors specified by the eligibility requirements for a  
 164.26 school readiness plus program.

164.27 is counted as the ratio of the number of hours of instruction to 850 times 1.0, but not more  
 164.28 than 0.6 pupil units. A pupil qualifying under this paragraph must be counted in the same  
 164.29 manner as a voluntary prekindergarten student for all general education and other school  
 164.30 funding formulas.

164.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2019 and later.

165.1 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 245C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 165.2 to read:

165.3 Subd. 5a. **National criminal history record check.** (a) "National criminal history record  
 165.4 check" means a check of records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through  
 165.5 submission of fingerprints through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to the  
 165.6 Federal Bureau of Investigation when specifically required by law.

165.7 (b) For purposes of this chapter, "national crime information database," "national criminal  
 165.8 records repository," "criminal history with the Federal Bureau of Investigation," and "national  
 165.9 criminal record check" mean a national criminal history record check defined in paragraph  
 165.10 (a).

165.11 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 245C.12, is amended to read:

165.12 **245C.12 BACKGROUND STUDY; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

165.13 (a) For the purposes of background studies completed by tribal organizations performing  
165.14 licensing activities otherwise required of the commissioner under this chapter, after obtaining  
165.15 consent from the background study subject, tribal licensing agencies shall have access to  
165.16 criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies and private licensing  
165.17 agencies under this chapter.

165.18 (b) Tribal organizations may contract with the commissioner to obtain background study  
165.19 data on individuals under tribal jurisdiction related to adoptions according to section 245C.34.  
165.20 Tribal organizations may also contract with the commissioner to obtain background study  
165.21 data on individuals under tribal jurisdiction related to child foster care according to section  
165.22 245C.34.

165.23 (c) For the purposes of background studies completed to comply with a tribal  
165.24 organization's licensing requirements for individuals affiliated with a tribally licensed nursing  
165.25 facility, the commissioner shall obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal  
165.26 Records Repository in accordance with section 245C.32.

165.27 (d) Tribal organizations may contract with the commissioner to conduct background  
165.28 studies or obtain background study data on individuals affiliated with a child care program  
165.29 sponsored, managed, or licensed by a tribal organization. Studies conducted under this  
165.30 paragraph require the commissioner to conduct a national criminal history record check as  
165.31 defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 5a. Any tribally affiliated child care program that  
165.32 does not contract with the commissioner to conduct background studies is exempt from the  
165.33 relevant requirements in this chapter. A study conducted under this paragraph must include  
166.1 all components of studies for certified license-exempt child care centers under this chapter  
166.2 to be transferable to other child care entities.

166.3 Sec. 12. **245C.121 BACKGROUND STUDY; HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

166.4 Head Start programs that receive funding disbursed under section 119A.52 may contract  
166.5 with the commissioner to conduct background studies and obtain background study data  
166.6 on individuals affiliated with a Head Start program. Studies conducted under this paragraph  
166.7 require the commissioner to conduct a national criminal history record check as defined in  
166.8 section 245C.02, subdivision 5a. Any Head Start program site that does not contract with  
166.9 the commissioner, is not licensed, and is not registered to receive funding under chapter  
166.10 119B is exempt from the relevant requirements in this chapter. Nothing in this paragraph  
166.11 supersedes requirements for background studies in this chapter, chapter 119B, or child care  
166.12 centers under chapter 245H that are related to licensed child care programs or programs  
166.13 registered to receive funding under chapter 119B. A study conducted under this paragraph

- 166.14 must include all components of studies for certified license-exempt child care centers under  
166.15 this chapter to be transferable to other child care entities.
- 166.16 Sec. 13. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, subdivision 2, is  
166.17 amended to read:
- 166.18 Subd. 2. **Program requirements.** A school readiness plus program provider must:
- 166.19 (1) assess each child's cognitive and language skills with a an age-appropriate  
166.20 comprehensive child assessment instrument when the child enters and again before the child  
166.21 leaves the program to improve program planning and implementation, communicate with  
166.22 parents, and promote kindergarten readiness;
- 166.23 (2) provide comprehensive program content and intentional instructional practice aligned  
166.24 with the state early childhood learning guidelines and kindergarten standards and based on  
166.25 early childhood research and professional practice that is focused on children's cognitive,  
166.26 social, emotional, and physical skills and development and prepares children for the transition  
166.27 to kindergarten, including early literacy and language skills;
- 166.28 (3) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with parents and kindergarten teachers;
- 166.29 (4) involve parents in program planning and decision making;
- 166.30 (5) coordinate with relevant community-based services;
- 166.31 (6) cooperate with adult basic education programs and other adult literacy programs;
- 167.1 (7) ensure staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and a maximum group size of 20 children  
167.2 with at least one licensed teacher;
- 167.3 (8) have teachers knowledgeable in early childhood curriculum content, assessment,  
167.4 native and English language development programs, and instruction; and
- 167.5 (9) provide instructional content and activities that are of sufficient length and intensity  
167.6 to address learning needs including offering a program with at least 350 hours of instruction  
167.7 per school year.
- 167.8 A teacher in a school readiness plus program must meet the criteria of a school readiness  
167.9 teacher under section 124D.15 or the criteria for a voluntary prekindergarten teacher under  
167.10 section 124D.151.

167.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2017.

167.12 Sec. 14. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, subdivision 5, is  
167.13 amended to read:

167.14 Subd. 5. **Application process; priority for high poverty schools.** ~~(a) For 2017-2018~~  
167.15 ~~school year, a school district or charter school that did not apply to participate in a voluntary~~  
167.16 ~~prekindergarten program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.151, may apply to the~~  
167.17 ~~commissioner by July 1, 2017, to participate in a school readiness plus program in the form~~  
167.18 ~~and manner specified by the commissioner. By June 15, 2017, the commissioner must notify~~  
167.19 ~~districts and charter schools of the availability of additional money for voluntary~~  
167.20 ~~prekindergarten and school readiness plus programs. A school district or charter school that~~  
167.21 ~~previously applied to participate in a voluntary prekindergarten program may amend its~~  
167.22 ~~application by July 1, 2017, to apply instead for school readiness plus. The commissioner~~  
167.23 ~~must review all applications for school readiness plus and notify applicant districts and~~  
167.24 ~~charter schools by August 1, 2017, whether they have been selected for participation.~~

167.25 ~~(b) For the 2018-2019 school year, a school district or charter school may apply to the~~  
167.26 ~~commissioner by January 30, 2018, to participate in school readiness plus in the form and~~  
167.27 ~~manner specified by the commissioner.~~

167.28 ~~(c) A district or charter school submitting an application under this section must include:~~  
167.29 ~~(1) a description of the proposed program, including the number of hours per week the~~  
167.30 ~~program will be offered at each school site or mixed-delivery location; (2) an estimate of~~  
167.31 ~~the number of eligible children to be served in the program at each school site or~~  
167.32 ~~mixed-delivery location; (3) the number of children being served that will be new to the~~  
168.1 ~~program; and (4) a statement of assurances signed by the superintendent or charter school~~  
168.2 ~~director that the proposed program meets the requirements of subdivision 2.~~

168.3 ~~(d) The commissioner must award funding for school readiness plus programs across~~  
168.4 ~~school districts and charter schools in the same manner as for the voluntary prekindergarten~~  
168.5 ~~program.~~

168.6 ~~(e) A school site or mixed-delivery site approved for aid under this subdivision remains~~  
168.7 ~~eligible for aid if the site continues to meet program requirements, regardless of changes in~~  
168.8 ~~the concentration of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Applications for~~  
168.9 ~~school readiness plus must be submitted according to Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.151,~~  
168.10 ~~subdivision 5.~~



**S3656-2**

578.27 Sec. 5. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, subdivision 6, is  
578.28 amended to read:

578.29 Subd. 6. **No supplanting.** For a site first qualifying in fiscal year 2018 or ~~2019~~ later,  
578.30 ~~mixed delivery revenue, including~~ voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus  
578.31 program revenue, must be used to supplement not supplant existing state, federal, and local  
578.32 revenue for prekindergarten activities.

168.11 Sec. 15. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, subdivision 6, is  
168.12 amended to read:

168.13 Subd. 6. **No supplanting.** For a site first qualifying in fiscal year 2018 or ~~2019~~ later,  
168.14 ~~mixed delivery revenue, including~~ voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus  
168.15 program revenue, must be used to supplement not supplant existing state, federal, and local  
168.16 revenue for prekindergarten activities.

**NOTE: FROM SELF-SUFFICIENCY ARTICLE 9, SECTION 5**

172.1 Sec. 5. ~~Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 9, section 2, subdivision 7, is~~  
172.2 ~~amended to read:~~

172.3 Subd. 7. **Tier 2 implementing grants.** (a) ~~For Tier 2 implementing grants under~~  
172.4 ~~Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.99:~~

172.5 \$ 480,000 .... 2018

172.6 ~~480,000~~

172.7 \$ 560,000 .... 2019

172.8 (b) ~~For fiscal years 2018 and 2019 only, \$160,000 each year is for the Northfield Healthy~~  
172.9 ~~Community Initiative in Northfield; \$160,000 is for the Jones Family Foundation for the~~  
172.10 ~~Every Hand Joined program in Red Wing; and \$160,000 is for the United Way of Central~~  
172.11 ~~Minnesota for the Partners for Student Success program.~~

172.12 (c) ~~For fiscal year 2019 only, \$80,000 is for the United Way of Central Minnesota for~~  
172.13 ~~the Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota.~~

172.14 (d) ~~The base funding for Tier 2 implementing grants is \$480,000. The commissioner~~  
172.15 ~~must competitively award all grants under this subdivision for fiscal year 2020 and later;~~  
172.16 ~~according to the criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.99, subdivision 3. For grants~~  
172.17 ~~authorized in fiscal year 2020 and later, priority must be given to past grant recipients.~~

172.18 ~~(c)~~ (e) ~~Any balance in the first year does not cancel but is available in the second year.~~

168.17 Sec. 16. **REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

168.18 The revisor of statutes shall codify Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article  
168.19 8, section 9, as amended, as Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.152.

168.20 Sec. 17. **REPEALER.**

168.21 Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 8, the effective date, is  
168.22 repealed.