



Legislative Update: March 22, 2016 (Activity through Friday, March 18)

Just a reminder that this update along with the Bill Tracker, will be posted each **Tuesday** (reflecting activity through the previous Friday) on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](http://www.childcareaware.org).

BILLS INTRODUCED (to date- bills introduced in the past week):

Early Care and Education/School-age programs and services (bills referred to Education Committees)

- Full-service community school funding increased (HF 2391, **HF 3046**)/(**SF 2813**)
- Pre-K children-deaf and hard of hearing Special Education services and enrollment (HF 2411/SF 2306)
- Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 pupil transportation funding provided (HF 2434)
- Minnesota Reading Corps funding increased (HF 2449/SF 2262)
- Head Start programs waiting lists funding increased (HF 2581)
- Early Learning Scholarships, home visiting programs, and Parent Aware activities increased funding and modifications (HF 2670/SF 2411)
- Community Education revenue program funding increased and minimum population guarantee increased (HF 2708/SF 2463)
- Head Start waiting lists fully funded, report required, and money appropriated (HF 2811)
- Community education youth after-school enrichment revenue increase (HF 2891/SF 2286)
- **Minnesota Department of Education Policy Bill (HF 3066/SF 2744)**
- **Children's cabinet redesign; basic sliding fee and early learning scholarship modifications (SF 2652)- recommended to pass and re-referred to Health, Human Services, and Housing**
- **Education partnership pilot grant funding increased, and money appropriated (HF 3323)**
- **Targeted home visiting evaluation grant program creation and appropriation (SF 3061)**

Child Care Assistance/Licensing changes (bills referred to HHS committees)

- Child Care Assistance modified (HF 2402)
- Child Care Assistance subsidy restrictions modified (HF 2470/SF 2391)
- Residential day care facilities for children required to be in residence of provider (HF 2498)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program eligibility modified (HF 2524/SF 2407)
- Child Care Assistance provider payments modified (HF 2657)
- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasted, and child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modified (HF 2821/SF 2562)
- **Child care grant eligibility modified (HF 3275/SF 2615)**
- **Child Care Assistance programs modified (HF 3284)**
- **Child Care Assistance program rates modified (HF 3286)**

Children's mental health/child protection (bills referred to HHS committees)

- Children's Mental Health Collaboratives appropriation (HF 2661/SF2305)
- Legislative task force on child protection extended (HF 2683/SF 2428)-**HF 2683 recommended to pass as amended and re-referred to Government Operations Committee**

Family supports (bills referred to HHS committees)

- Office of Ombudsperson for American Indian Families created (HF 2701/SF 2988 Pappas)
- Family and medical leave benefit insurance program established (HF 2963/SF2558)-**SF 2558 recommended to pass and re-referred to Judiciary Committee**
- Grants for safe sleep baby boxes and baby care supplies (HF 3236/SF 2756)
- Working family income tax credit modification (SF 3039)
- Prenatal leave requirement (SF 3039)

Bills from last session heard/scheduled for hearings to date:

- School readiness teachers licensing requirement; early childhood family education (ECFE) teacher license requirements clarification (SF 1386) – **Amended and laid over for consideration in the omnibus bill 3/16/16**
- Human services data provisions modifications (SF 1434) – **Heard in Senate Judiciary 3/8/16; passed and moved to the Senate floor**

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, March 25 - Tuesday, March 29 at noon: Legislative Recess

Monday, April 11-Friday, April 15: Week of the Young Child/ activities at the Capitol

Friday, April 22 - Monday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m.: Legislative Recess

Monday, May 23: By law, legislators must adjourn this session

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

Friday, April 1: Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin

Friday, April 8: Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline in the other house

Thursday, April 21: Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Governor Dayton released his supplemental budget on Tuesday, March 15. While we have not yet seen the specific bill language for each item, there are several early care and education elements included in this plan. A summary of the related items is included in the following pages:

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Voluntary Preschool: The Governor recommends establishing a high-quality, voluntary prekindergarten program with a capped funding level. School districts and charter schools offering prekindergarten programming would be required to provide at least 350 hours of instruction each school year. Average Daily Membership (ADM) would be capped at 0.6. Funding for voluntary prekindergarten would be split between urban, suburban and greater Minnesota school districts, and charter schools. Funding would be awarded based on poverty rates and the lack of Three- and Four-Star Parent Aware-Rated programs in the area. This recommendation also provides state aid to offset local levy increases related to additional pupils.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$60,000

Help Me Grow: The Governor recommends implementation of a comprehensive early childhood system to better connect children and families to resources that support healthy child development. This funding will establish a centralized, “no wrong door” access system for all Minnesota families with children prenatal through age 8; engage parents and community partners in design, implementation and outreach efforts; train providers and professionals; and develop a comprehensive data system to guide evaluation and continuous improvement. Help Me Grow is a joint effort of the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0

Teacher Workforce Package: The Governor seeks to address the state teacher shortage issue by providing funding to recruit and retain teachers. This initiative focuses on diversifying and increasing the teacher workforce by: 1) lowering tuition for and funding recruitment of teacher candidates who agree to work in teacher shortage areas, 2) creating pathways for paraprofessionals to pursue full teacher licensure, 3) expanding the Minnesota American Indian Teacher Training Program, and 4) creating a Certificate of Advanced Professional Study (CAPS) program to create expedited pathways for already licensed teachers to add licenses especially in teacher shortage areas.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$12,392	\$12,140	\$12,140

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alignment with Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act: The Governor recommends aligning Minnesota with the requirements of the federal Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act. This recommendation reduces program complexities, improves health and safety, provides stable child care services, and supports parents’ efforts to achieve independence from public assistance.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$11,148	\$27,088	\$33,301

Increasing Child Care Assistance Program Maximum Rates to 50th Percentile: The Governor recommends increasing the maximum reimbursement rates for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to the 50th percentile of the biennial provider market rate survey. Maximum rates would first be updated based on the 2016 survey and adjusted in an ongoing basis as required by the Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act. Reimbursement rate increases will encourage more providers to participate in the CCAP program and increase access to high-quality, early care and education options.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$17,133	\$76,664	\$94,199

FAMILY SUPPORTS

Family Home Visiting Services: The Governor recommends expanding evidence-based home visiting to offer these services to all pregnant and parenting teens. Teen parents and their children are at particularly high risk for poor maternal and child outcomes. Evidence-based home visiting results in improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, improved school readiness, and higher rates of maternal employment. Once fully implemented, this expansion is projected to serve an additional 4,100 families each year.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$10,731	\$19,610	\$28,495

Family Home Visiting Services in Medical Assistance: The Governor recommends higher Medical Assistance payments for public health nurse home visits that use evidence-based practices. Nurse home visits provide an opportunity to educate parents about infant care and healthy parenting and to assess a mother's health. Medical Assistance currently covers nurse home visits, but this recommendation provides a higher payment to providers who use methods that have been proven to improve child health.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$186	\$467	\$559

Paid Parental Leave: The Governor recommends six weeks of paid parental leave for state employees after the birth or adoption of a child. Employees covered are those eligible under Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) criteria. This proposal provides funding to agencies with critical operations for personnel costs associated with paid parental leave.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000

FACILITIES/BONDING

Capitol Complex Child Care Facility Planning: The Governor recommends funding for the design and development of a child care facility on the Capitol Complex. Employees have expressed interest in child care near the workplace in recent employee engagement surveys. The facility is expected to allow the State to attract and retain employees in a competitive hiring environment.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$300	\$150	\$150

Early Learning Facilities: The Governor recommends appropriating \$5 million general fund for the Early Childhood Facilities grant program. Grant awards will be exempt from requirements that facilities must be owned by a political subdivision. This recommendation was also included in the Governor's capital budget.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

TAX CREDITS

Child and Dependent Care Credit Expansion: The Governor recommends expansion of the Minnesota Child and Dependent Care Credit to 92,000 new families by moving the income cap for eligibility from \$39,000 to \$112,000 for families with one child and \$124,000 for families with two children. Also included is an increase in the maximum credit available to eligible families. The Minnesota credit would remain refundable, unlike the federal credit. This was included in the Governor's 2015 tax proposal.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	(\$46,800)	(\$51,300)	(\$55,700)

Expand the Working Family Credit to the Middle Class: The Governor recommends expansion of the Working Family Credit by providing access to the maximum amount of the credit at lower income levels, providing access to the credit for those making up to \$55,000, and increasing the amount of the credit for over 286,000 taxpayers already receiving it. This change would make 24,000 new taxpayers eligible for the credit. This was included in the Governor's 2015 tax proposal.

General Revenue	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	(\$39,400)	(\$40,800)	(\$43,100)

Replace Working Family Credit TANF Funds with General Funds: The Governor recommends replacing the amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds used to pay for the Minnesota Working Family Credit with funding from the general fund. Under current law, the Working Family Credit is funded with a combination of general fund and TANF dollars. This was included in the Governor's 2015 tax proposal.

General Revenue	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	(\$23,660)	(\$24,102)	(\$24,281)

OTHER PROGRAMS

Full Service Community Schools: The Governor recommends \$2 million in funding for the Full Service Community Schools program to increase the number of schools receiving grants in 2017. These grant funds allow schools to partner with community agencies to provide on-site health and dental clinics, mental health services, family resource centers, college access information, out-of-school program information, and other family support services.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0

Child Protection Grant Allocation Formula Change: The Governor recommends modifying the county performance withhold formula by removing the requirement that data on face-to-face visits be applied to child protection grant allocations. This recommendation changes the distribution formula and does not change the overall appropriation.

General Expenditure	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0