



## Legislative Update: April 19, 2016 (Activity through Friday, April 15)

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](#). This week's update provides an overview of the House and Senate **Education Finance Omnibus bills** (see the bill tracker for more details on each bill)

### HOUSE EDUCATION OMNIBUS FINANCE BILL- HF 3858

**The following bills are included in whole or in part in the House bill:**

- Early Learning Scholarships and Parent Aware activities increased funding and modifications (HF 2670)
- Minnesota Reading Corps funding increased (HF 2449)
- Minnesota Department of Education Policy Bill (HF 3066)
- St. Cloud Area School District preschool pilot program for low-income students and English language learners grant provided, and money appropriated (HF 3254)
- School district early learning programs continuity increased (HF 3522)
- Charter schools authorized to participate in the school readiness program (HF 3523)
- Parent-child home program for early childhood literacy and school readiness funding increase (HF 3755)

**More specifically, the bill does the following:**

- Grants priority and authorizes early learning scholarships for children birth to 5 if the child has a **parent who is a student under age 21 pursuing a high school diploma or GED, in foster care or otherwise in need of protective services, or the child's family has experienced homelessness**. Also allows the commissioner of education to award a scholarship in an amount higher than the amount based on the child care market rate survey based on foster care/protective services or homelessness.
- Extends the requirement for programs receiving scholarships to be Three- or Four-Star-Rated **from 2016 to 2020**.
- Allows a Licensed Family Child Care provider or Licensed center to **use its established registration process** to enroll scholarship recipients for Pathway II Scholarships and makes Pathway II scholarships **portable for the families** enrolled.
- Creates a category of "**qualified newly opened program**" that can carry the Parent Aware Rating of its affiliated program.
- Increases the appropriation for **Parent Aware by \$2 million** for fiscal year 2017 only, and directs the commissioner to direct \$2 million of the base funding towards increasing access and training for providers in low income/underserved areas.
- Increases the appropriation for the **Minnesota Reading Corps by \$1.5 million** in fiscal year 2017 and makes the appropriation available through June 30, 2019.
- Requires the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to report data on the demographics of early childhood providers and other early childhood program staff.
- Appropriates **\$430,000** in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for a grant to the St. Cloud Area School District to establish a **preschool pilot program** directed toward serving low income and English language learners.
- Allows a school board to adopt a resolution to create an early learning program that **combines its ECCE and School Readiness activities**.

- Increases the appropriation for the **parent-child home program** by **\$2 million** for fiscal year 2017. Directs the increase to be used over the next three fiscal years.

### SENATE E-12 OMNIBUS FINANCE ARTICLE

#### The following bills are included in whole or in part in the Senate bill:

- Minnesota Learning Resource Center (SF 849)
- After School Community Learning Grants (SF 1017)
- Minnesota Reading Corps funding increased, and money appropriated (SF 2262)
- Children’s cabinet redesign; basic sliding fee and Early Learning Scholarship modifications (SF 2652)
- 4-year-old prekindergarten program authorization (SF 3095)
- Full-service community school funding increased (SF 2813)
- Parent-Child Home program (SF 3103)
- Governor’s “Help Me Grow” proposal (SF 3482)
- Early childhood family education (ECFE) home visiting revenue program establishment and home visiting levy modification (SF 3428)

#### More specifically, the bill does the following:

- Provides a one-time appropriation of **\$1 million to A Chance to Grow** for the Minnesota Learning Resource Center’s reading and math skills program for Pre-K to grade 3 children.
- Appropriates **\$500,000 for a competitive grant program** to support community-based organizations, schools, political subdivisions or child care centers that serve young people in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade **after school or during non-school hours**.
- Adds an additional **\$3 million** to the appropriation for the **MN Reading Corps** in 2017.
- Directs the **Children’s Cabinet** to create a plan for a cross-agency system that **provides support for a family that is homeless**, especially with children up to four years of age, to access available services.
- **Appropriates \$18 million** in 2017 and authorizes a school district, charter school, or combination thereof to operate a **voluntary pre-kindergarten program** for 4-year-old pupils, that must include at least 350 hours of instruction during the school year (beginning in fiscal year 2017).
- Allows a district or charter school to **contract with a Head Start, child care center, licensed family child care program or community-based organization** to provide the pre-kindergarten program, provided they meet the stated program requirements.
- Identifies **specific target districts** as well as priority criteria for the voluntary prekindergarten program such as the presence of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, and the absence of Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware Rated programs within the school district or in close proximity.
- Increases **the long-term maintenance** revenue that can be used towards necessary remodeling related to an approved voluntary pre-kindergarten program.
- Increases the overall appropriation **by \$2.2 million** and the annual award amount a school site may receive from **\$100,000 to \$150,000 as part of the full-service community school program**.
- Increases the appropriation for **the Parent-Child home** project by **\$1 million**.
- Appropriates **\$1 million** to develop and implement a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated **Help Me Grow** system of early identification, referral, and follow up for children, prenatal through age 8, and their families.
- Modifies the home visiting levy program into a **home visiting revenue program**. Makes districts that are eligible to levy for early childhood family education eligible to levy for home visiting revenue.

In addition, both the House and Senate bills contain language related to addressing teacher training and teacher shortages that may pertain to Pre-K teachers.

**PROPOSED BUDGET COMPARISONS (additional appropriations for 2017):**

<b>FUNDING ITEM</b>	<b>GOVERNOR</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>SENATE</b>
<b>Voluntary Pre-K Program</b>	\$25 million	\$0	\$18 million
<b>Reading Corps</b>	\$0	\$1.5 million	\$3 million
<b>Full Service Community Schools</b>	\$2 million	\$0	\$2.2 million
<b>Parent Aware</b>	\$0	\$2 million	\$0
<b>Parent-Child Home</b>	\$0	\$2 million	\$1 million
<b>St. Cloud Early Learning Pilot</b>	\$0	\$430,000	\$0
<b>Help Me Grow</b>	\$1 million	\$0	\$1 million
<b>MN Learning Resource Center: Help Me Grow</b>	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
<b>After School Community Learning Grants</b>	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
<b>Children's Cabinet: Homeless Children Supports</b>	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28 million</b>	<b>\$5.9 million</b>	<b>\$26.2 million</b>

*Next week's update will feature the other omnibus bills, including the Health and Human Services bills*

**UPCOMING DATES**

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**

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