



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 21, 2019

Welcome to the Child Care Aware Legislative Update. This narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, will be posted each Tuesday (reflecting activity through the previous Friday) on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota Website](#).

Each week, we will provide a brief overview of bills that have been introduced, action that has been taken at the committee level or on the floor, and any other pertinent news related to early care and education and school-age care issues. If you have additions to recommend to the Bill Tracker, please contact [Ann McCully](#).

### OVERVIEW

The Governor and House and Senate Leadership announced **a budget deal on Sunday night, May 19**, one day before the constitutional deadline for this legislative session. This deal set overall spending for the next two years at \$48.3 billion, compared to the Governor's request of \$49.3 billion and the Senate plan of \$47.7 billion (including the use of \$491 million from state reserve accounts).

Conference committees, who had been meeting across the past two weeks to reach agreements on policy and non-budget items, were provided with spending targets and tasked with completing their omnibus bills by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, with the goal of holding a one-day special session to pass these bills later in the week.

Negotiations continue, but of the bills related to the issues we have been tracking this session, only the Higher Education bill has been completed and brought to the House and Senate floor for a vote. (See overview of the final bill below).

We will continue to track progress during the special session to complete the omnibus bill process, and we will post a final analysis of all early care and education and school-age care elements contained in the Jobs and Economic Development, E-12, Health and Human Services, and Tax bills when they are completed.

The next regular session of the Minnesota Legislature is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

## OMNIBUS HIGHER EDUCATION BILL-SF 2415

5/20 Passed the Senate 62-3

5/20 Passed the House 84-49

Proposed spending items 2020-21 biennium (change items only)	Governor	House	Senate	Final Agreement
Child care grants	\$13.388 million	\$13.388 million	\$13.388 million	\$13.388 million
Statewide Longitudinal data system (SLEDS)	\$3.764 million	\$3.564 million	\$1.764 million	\$3.546 million
Student loan counseling	0	\$200,000	\$234,000	\$200,000
Workforce development scholarships	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$16 million	\$7 million

- Integrates the **Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS)** into the statute that establishes the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS).
- Establishes a program administered by the Office of Higher Education to provide grants to qualified organizations offering **student loan debt repayment** counseling.
- Expands the **workforce development scholarship** program established in 2017 as follows:
  - Expands the program to include students returning from the workforce; the existing law limits the scholarships to new students
  - Expands the programs that train students for high-demand occupations to include early childhood and transportation
  - Allows for a third scholarship for students who transfer to a corresponding program at a Minnesota state university