

2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The 2015 Legislative Session was a long and winding road marked by:

- \$2 billion surplus in a budget year
- Capitol restoration
- Divided Government
- Vetoed E-12 Education Bill
- Special Session
- Education bill "got better"
- United advocacy message and effort

The Minnesota School Boards Association started and finished the legislative session with a single, strong message:

"The basic education funding formula is our first priority. It is the fairest funding for every student, school and district statewide."

Our message was heard and effective. It works when we work together!

We are grateful to the school board members, superintendents, teachers and parents who joined us to deliver this unified message. It made a difference – we doubled the state aid dedicated to the basic formula throughout the long and winding session. Together, we fought for every dollar on the formula so THANK YOU.

As you will see in our summary, there are many other MSBA priorities peppered throughout the final bills. Look for the MSBA icon to help you identify which provisions we advocated for during session.

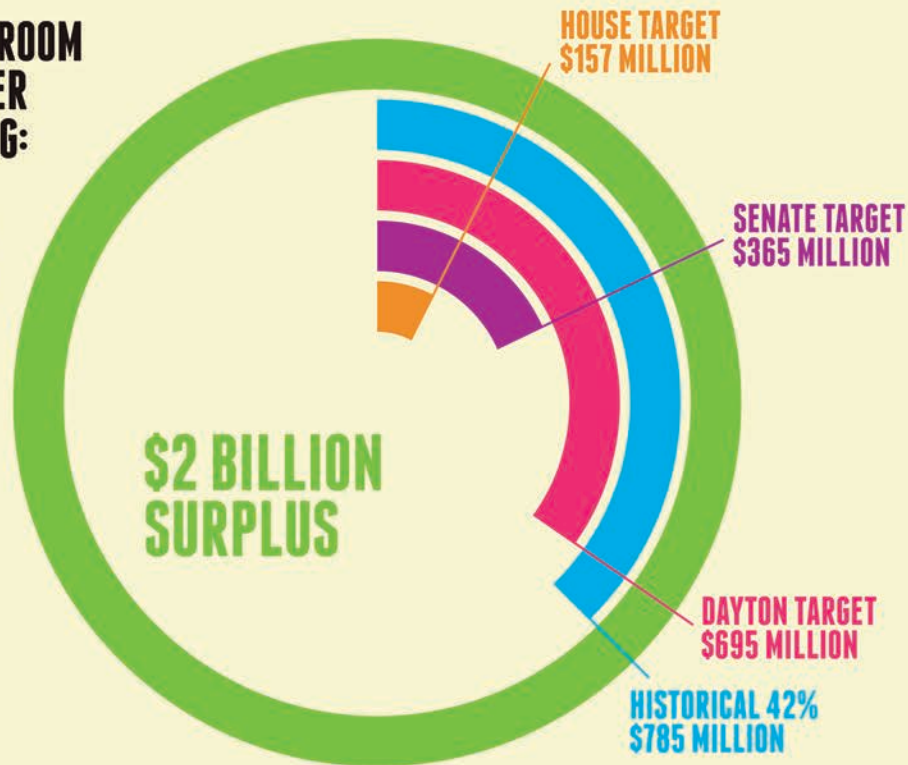
www.mnmsba.org

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

MINNESOTA HAS A NEARLY \$2 BILLION BUDGET SURPLUS. FOR SCHOOLS, IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE LAYOFFS THAT LEAD TO LARGER CLASS SIZES AND CUTBACKS TO PROGRAMS LIKE MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS. IN FACT, THE SURPLUS IS LARGE ENOUGH TO EXPAND SERVICES FOR THE NEEDIEST STUDENTS, INCREASE ACCESS TO SCHOOL-BASED PRESCHOOL, REDUCE SPECIAL EDUCATION CASELOADS AND UPDATE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL BUILDINGS. AND THERE WOULD STILL BE PLENTY LEFT OVER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, BUILDING THE BUDGET RESERVE, TAX REDUCTIONS AND OTHER PRIORITIES.

THERE'S ROOM FOR OTHER SPENDING:

- TAX CUTS
- RESERVES
- HIGHER ED



IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN EDUCATION!

ONLY GOV. MARK DAYTON'S E-12 BUDGET TARGET RECOGNIZES THIS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS – AND EVEN HIS TARGET SPENDS A SMALLER SHARE OF THE SURPLUS THAN THE 42 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL FUND POLICY MAKERS HISTORICALLY PUT TOWARD E-12 EDUCATION. AND BECAUSE THIS SURPLUS IS STRUCTURAL, THE FORECAST CALLS FOR MORE SURPLUSES IN THE FUTURE.

FOR MINNESOTANS WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR SCHOOLS, IT'S TIME TO ASK THE LEGISLATURE, "IF NOT NOW, WHEN?"

2015 Legislative Session Summary

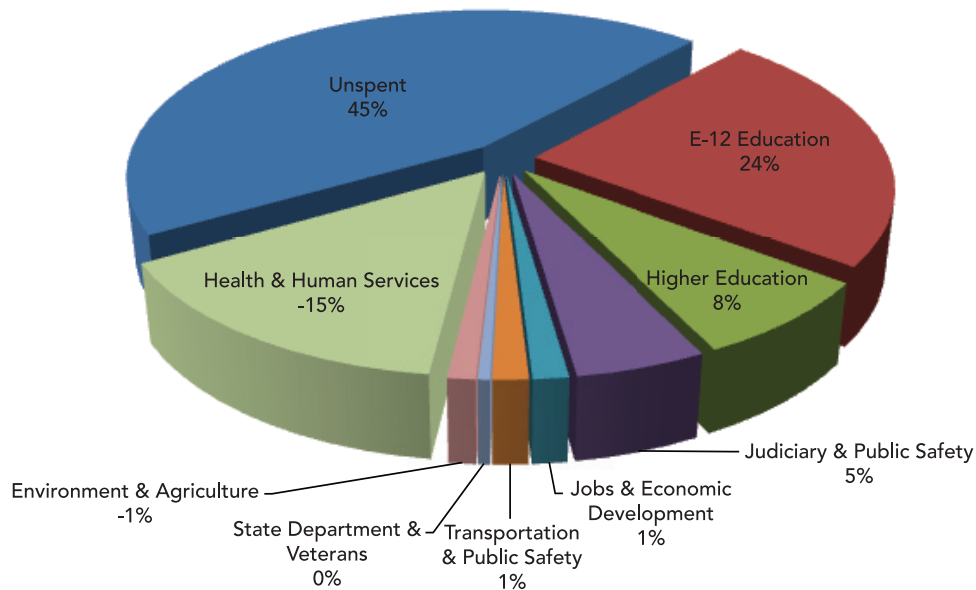
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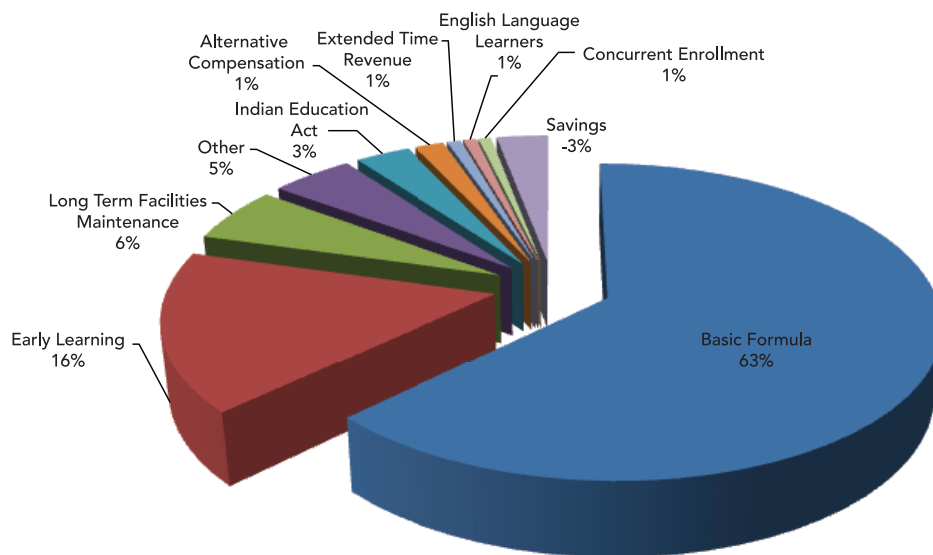
Indicates significant MSBA effort to enact provision

2015 State Budget

\$2 Billion Projected Surplus



E-12 Education Budget Breakdown - \$525 Million



Session Milestones

The 2015 E-12 Education Omnibus Conference Committee Report (HF844) increased education funding for K-12 and early learning programs by \$400 million over the next two years. This target was agreed upon between House Speaker Kurt Daudt and Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk. It was soon reported that Governor Mark Dayton was not in agreement, so on May 21st he vetoed the \$17 billion education bill due to inadequate funding and a lack of his top priorities.

Governor's veto of the education omnibus bill resulted in an increased education target of \$125 million and a final target of \$525 million. The bill "got better."

Education Appropriations – Special Session H.F. 1

	Aid	Levy
Items	FY16-17	FY17
Basic Education Formula Allowance (2% & 2%)	\$350,475,000	—
Early Learning Scholarships (current law policy)	\$48,250,000	—
Long Term Facilities Maintenance (full proposal)	\$31,961,000	(\$4,145,000)
School Readiness (current law policy)	\$30,750,000	—
Indian Education Formula Aid	\$12,682,000	—
Head Start	\$10,000,000	—
Compensatory Grants	\$10,000,000	—
Alternative Compensation (QComp)	\$9,500,000	\$4,235,000
Tribal Contract Schools	\$5,000,000	—
English Language Learners	\$4,263,000	—
Concurrent Enrollment	\$4,000,000	—
Early Childhood Rating System	\$3,500,000	—
MN Reading Corp	\$3,500,000	—
Extended Time Revenue (for districts)	\$2,468,000	—
Extended Time Revenue (for charters)	\$2,023,000	—
Promise Neighborhood - Minneapolis	\$2,000,000	—
Promise Neighborhood - St. Paul	\$2,000,000	—
State Agencies (MDE, BoT, BoSA, Perpich, Academies)	\$1,872,000	—
Levy Equalization (Operating Capital)	\$1,309,000	(\$1,454,000)
Faribault Technology Initiative	\$1,198,000	—
Education Partnerships	\$1,002,000	—
Starbase STEM	\$924,000	—
IT Certifications	\$500,000	—
Full Service Community Schools	\$500,000	—
Accelerated Charter Payments	\$421,000	—
Minnesota Principals Academy	\$300,000	—
Innovative Technology Cooperatives	\$300,000	—
Owatonna Referendum	\$295,000	—
Parent Child Home Program	\$200,000	—
Race2Reduce Water Conservation Grants	\$150,000	—
Northwest Online College in High School	\$100,000	—
Teacher Development & Evaluation for Cooperatives	\$22,000	—
Early Education Services	\$11,000	—
Math Standards Delay	(\$169,000)	—
Revenue Carry Forward / Cancellations	(\$2,423,000)	—
Statewide Testing (drafting error & test elimination)	(\$13,884,000)	—
Cooperative to Intermediate Transition Authority	—	\$1,364,000
SUBTOTAL	\$525,000,000	\$0

EDUCATION

Education Finance – Special Session H.F. 1



Basic Revenue. Increases the basic formula allowance by 2% to **\$5,948 (\$117)** per pupil for fiscal year 2016 and by 2% to **\$6,067 (\$119)** for fiscal year 2017 and later.

EARLY LEARNING



School Readiness. Increases school readiness aid with no policy changes (\$30,750,000).

Early Learning Scholarships. Increases early learning scholarships with no policy changes (\$48,250,000).

Head Start. Provides funding for Head Start program (\$10,000,000).

EQUITY



Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue. Reestablished the long-term facilities maintenance revenue program in response to the Capital Facilities Work Group recommendations. Gives all school districts access to alternative facilities funding so school buildings and grounds can be responsibly and efficiently maintained. Makes school facilities levies and bonds more affordable in low-wealth districts by increasing equalization (\$31,961,000). *Effective fiscal year 2017.*

- Sets the maximum revenue adjusted per pupil unit for fiscal years 2017 at \$193, 2018 at \$292 and 2019 at \$380 or the amount the district received under the old law.
- Requires that a district or intermediate district have a ten-year facilities maintenance plan adopted by its board and approved by the commissioner.
- Repeals Alternative Facilities Program, Deferred Maintenance Revenue Program and Health and Safety Levy, while retaining a list of allowed expenditures for health and safety revenue.
- Authorizes a district that is a member of an intermediate district or other cooperative unit to levy for its proportionate share of the costs of long-term facilities maintenance costs. Requires approval of each member board and the Commissioner of Education.
- All districts are held harmless.



Adjusted Net Tax Capacity for Ag Land. For the purposes of the long-term facilities maintenance equalized levy only, provides an alternative calculation for adjusted net tax capacity that is reduced by 50 percent of the class 2a agricultural land before the application of the ANTC growth limits. *Effective for fiscal year 2016.*



Alternative Teacher Pay System (QComp). Increases the cap on alternative compensation for those districts that currently have approved plans. Allows cooperatives to participate in the alternative teacher professional pay system (\$9,500,000). *Effective fiscal year 2017.*

MISCELLANEOUS



English Learner. Increases English Learner aid eligibility to seven years (\$4,263,000). *Effective fiscal year 2017.*

Extended Time Revenue. Increases the extended time revenue for school districts schools by \$100 per pupil unit (\$2,468,000). Allows extended time revenue for charter schools (\$2,023,000). *Effective fiscal year 2016.*



Concurrent Enrollment. Increases reimbursement rate without full funding (\$4,000,000).

Compensatory Revenue Pilot Grants. Provides grants for seven school districts that participate in compensatory revenue pilot program (\$10,000,000). *Effective fiscal year 2016.*

American Indian Education Aid. Changes the Indian Education Grants to an aid program. School districts, charter schools, or an American Indian-controlled tribal contract or grant school enrolling at least 20 American Indian students, receiving federal Title 7 funding and operating an American Indian Education Program are eligible to receive aid. Creates a funding formula for an eligible school's aid and raises the maximum per pupil aid cap for fiscal year 2016-17 only (\$17,682,000).

Promise Neighborhoods. Provides funding for Minneapolis and St. Paul Promise Neighborhoods (4,000,000). *Effective fiscal year 2016.*

Full-Service Community Schools. Directs the commissioner to fund eligible school sites. School sites must receive up to \$100,000 annually and hire a site coordinator. Implementation funding is up to \$20,000 for one year for planning.

Achievement and Integration Levy. Clarifies the calculation and makes it retroactive as of July 1, 2014.

REPEAL

Student Achievement Levy. Phase out begins in fiscal year 2018, repeal complete in fiscal year 2019.

SPREADSHEETS

Education State Aid:

http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2015/E12_aid_E12_SS_FINAL.pdf


Education Property Taxes:


http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2015/E12_proptax_E12_SS_FINAL.pdf

Education Revenue District-by-District:


<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/4af72730-738a-4a18-b875-aa44117433ff.pdf>


CALENDAR


 **Flexible Learning.** Allows a school district with an approved four-day week plan in the 2014-15 school year to continue with it until the end of the 2019-20 school year. Future approvals are contingent upon meeting the district's World's Best Workforce performance goals. The commissioner must approve or disapprove a flexible learning year application within 45 business days of receiving application. If disapproved, must provide detailed reasons and one year notice before revocation of the plan. *Effective immediately.*


 **School Start Date.** For 2015-16 school year only school districts may begin school year on September 1.

FINANCE

 **Compensatory Education Revenue.** Allows school board flexibility to allocate up to 50 percent of the revenue according to a plan adopted by the school board. *Effective July 1, 2015.*

 **Fund Transfer Extension through FY2017.** Extends the authorization for a school district to transfer money among accounts if the transfer doesn't change the district's state aid or local levy authority. Does not include transfers from community education, food service and staff development.

 **Flexible Use of Alternative Teacher Pay (QComp).** Allows the alternative teacher professional pay system to: (1) include a hiring bonus or other added compensation for effective or highly effective teachers who work in a hard-to-fill position or in a hard-to-staff school, (2) include incentives for teachers to obtain a master's degree in their content field of licensure or pursue additional licensure in a locally-identified teacher shortage area, or help fund a "grow your own" teacher initiative. *Effective fiscal year 2017.*

 **Flexible Use of Staff Development Revenue.** Allows staff development revenue to be used for principal and teacher development and evaluation, and teacher mentoring.

Literacy Incentive Aid Use of Revenue. Allows districts to use basic skills revenue to implement the local literacy plans. *Effective fiscal year 2016.*

 **Formation of Intermediate District.** Allows school districts located in Carver, Scott and Le Sueur Counties to form an intermediate school district.

Flexibility for Teacher Licensure



Teacher Licensure. The Board of Teaching may:

- Substitute college-level test (ACT/SAT) with a board-adopted skills test for teacher candidates.
- Issue up to four one-year temporary teaching licenses to a qualified candidate who has not yet passed a board adopted skills test.
- Grant two-year provisional license to a candidate in a field in which he/she was not previously licensed or in a field where a shortage of licensed teachers exists.
- Allow candidates with a disability to receive testing accommodations.
- At the request of the school district, issue a “restricted license” to a qualified candidate who has not yet passed a board-adopted skills test.
- Allow a candidate to submit a portfolio to the Board of Teaching with a 90-day turn around and response.
- Make recommendations to the legislature on teacher preparation and licensure requirements in the area of service-learning and submit the recommendations to the legislature by February 16, 2016.



Out-of-State Teacher Candidate. Directs the Board of Teaching to adopt rules to streamline out-of-state teacher licensure by January 1, 2016. Repeals the requirement that teacher licenses be the “same” as Minnesota teaching licenses and allows licenses in “similar” content field and “similar” licensure area. *Effective July 1, 2016.*



Teacher Licensure Agreement with Adjoining States. The Board of Teaching must enter into a National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification and other interstate agreements with adjoining states.



Exemption for Technical Education Instructors. Part-time vocational or career and technical education program instructors are exempt from teacher licensure requirements with approval of local employer school board.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Teacher and Administrator Preparation and Performance Data. Directs the Board of Teaching and the Board of School Administrators, in cooperation with Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) and Minnesota colleges and universities offering board-approved teacher preparation programs, annually to collect, report and post summary data on teacher and school administrator preparation and performance outcomes. This information will be published on web site hosted jointly by the boards. *Effective July 1, 2016.*

Grounds for Revocation, Suspension, or Denial of Teaching License. Directs the Board of Teaching and the Board of School Administrators to refuse to issue or renew or to automatically revoke an individual's teaching license without the right to a hearing upon receiving a certified copy of a conviction showing that the individual was convicted of a specific sexual conduct crime. *Effective immediately.*

TRAINING

Paraprofessional Training. Annual training is required for paraprofessionals that provide direct support to students with disabilities.

Student Teachers. A student teacher must be placed with a teacher with at least three years of experience and is not in the teacher improvement process.

CREDITS



Credit Equivalencies. Allows:

- An agricultural science or career and technical education credit to meet the graduation requirements in science.
- A computer science credit to fulfill a mathematics graduation requirement.
- A Project Lead the Way credit to fulfill a science or mathematics credit.



Postsecondary Credits. Requires all MnSCU institutions to give full credit to students who complete a PSEO course or program for postsecondary credit that is part or all of a transfer curriculum at a MnSCU institution. *Effective 2015-16 school year.*

ELIGIBILITY

State Bilingual and Multilingual Seals. Eliminates the Minnesota world language proficiency high achievement certificates, establishes voluntary bilingual and multilingual seals, along with further clarifications to the program. Directs MnSCU institutions to award college credits to students in grades 10, 11, or 12 whose proficiency is sufficient to receive a state bilingual or multilingual seal or certificate. *Effective immediately.*

Limit on PSEO Participation. Removes the limits on postsecondary enrollment options program participation for students the school district determines are not on track to graduate.

Concurrent Enrollment Eligibility. Allows 9th and 10th graders to enroll in concurrent enrollment courses or world language courses under certain conditions.

REPORTS



MnSCU Transfer Curriculum Report. Directs the MnSCU chancellor to prepare and submit to the K-12 and higher education committees of the legislature by February 1, 2016, a report on implementing the transfer curriculum policy for PSEO students and how to standardize Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and CLEP course equivalencies across all state colleges and universities. *Effective immediately.*

Report of Rigorous Course Taking; AP; IB; and PSEO. In the annual legislative report on rigorous course taking, the education commissioner must disaggregate the data by student group, school district, and postsecondary institution and must include information on participation and expenditures for career and technical education courses offered as a concurrent enrollment course.

TESTING

Statewide Graduation Requirement. ACT must be offered at the high school and students are given a chance to take the test, but it is not a high school graduation requirement. Requires a district to pay a one-time cost for an interested student in grades 11 or 12.

MCA for Graduation Requirements. Requires high school students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2014-2015 school year and later to demonstrate their understanding of required academic standards on state-developed reading, writing (new – when available), and math tests instead of a nationally normed college entrance exam as a condition of graduating from high school. *Effective for students entering grade 9 in the 2015-2016 school year.*

Limits on Local Testing. Limits the amount of time spent on locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments. Limits are 10 hours per school for grades 1-6 and 11 hours per school for grades 7-12, excluding IB and AP. A district may be exempt if after consulting with the teachers, the school district reports reasons in World's Best Workforce Report. *Effective immediately.*

STANDARDS



Math Standards Revisions and Reviews. Postpones until the 2020-2021 school year the review and revision of the state's math standards.

Elective Standards. Directs school districts to use the world language standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages when offering world language electives.

Dyslexia Definition. Defines "dyslexia" as a specific learning disability. Requires students who have a diagnosis of dyslexia to meet state and federal eligibility criteria in order to qualify for special education services.

Repealer. Eliminates the educational planning and assessment system (EPAS) program.

Administrative Reporting and Requirements

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Placement of Students. Prohibits school administrators from placing students (K-4) in the classroom of a teacher who is in the improvement process or has not had a summative evaluation if, in the prior year, that student was in the classroom of the teacher who received discipline, unless there is no other teacher at that grade. This also applies to grades 5 to 12, unless there is no other teacher at the school that teaches that subject area and grade. *Effective immediately.*

Student Teachers. Administrators must place a student teacher with a teacher with at least three years of experience and is not in a teacher improvement process.

Student Information Systems; Transferring Records. School districts may contract only for a student information system that is Schools Interoperability Framework compliant and compatible.

Online Reporting of Required Data. Allows, rather than requires, districts to use the state online system for compliance reporting. Allows districts to contract with an outside vendor employing a compatible universal filing system as an alternative to using the state online system.

Screening Program Vision Exam. Requires an early childhood developmental screening program to record the date of the child's most recent comprehensive vision exam, if any. Defines "comprehensive vision examination" as an examination performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Directs the commissioner to make a report to the legislature describing the number and proportion of children who indicate that they have received a comprehensive vision examination.

Placing High School Students in Study Abroad Programs. Requires annual reporting by school districts and charter schools with enrolled students who participate in a foreign exchange, study or other travel abroad program. Districts and charter schools are also encouraged to adopt policies to help ensure students' health and safety. Requires program providers to register with the secretary of state to be eligible to offer a program under this statute. *Effective for the 2015-2016 school year.*

Literacy Incentive Aid. Requires a district to submit its local literacy plan as a condition of getting proficiency and growth aid. *Effective fiscal year 2016.*

For a complete list of additional requirements and responsibilities for school districts, go to pages 21-22.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Annual Evaluations. Directs the education commissioner to annually report to the legislature those districts that have not submitted reports or met performance goals under the World's Best Workforce law.

Homelessness Reporting. Requires commissioner to include data on student homelessness among demographic factors that relate to student performance. *Effective immediately.*

Special and Extenuating Circumstances for Assessments. Department of Education will develop a list of circumstances in which a student may be unable to take a test without a penalty.

Examining and Developing Statewide Swimming Resources. Directs the commissioner to report on the extent of existing resources and best practices available for swimming instruction in Minnesota public schools. Directs the commissioner to establish a work group of interested stakeholders to report to the legislature by February 1, 2016, on the curriculum, resources, personnel, and other costs needed to make swimming instruction available in all Minnesota public schools for children beginning at an early age. *Effective immediately.*

Developmental Course Taking Report. Requires the collection and reporting of tuition costs incurred by students enrolled in noncredit-bearing college courses for developmental or remedial purposes and name of high school from which student graduated. Report to the legislature January 1, 2016.

Efficiencies to Reduce Paperwork. Directs the education department, in collaboration with special education teachers and administrators in schools and districts, to identify strategies to reduce the time spent completing paperwork. Directs the department to disseminate successful strategies to other districts and schools.

1:1 Device Program Guidelines. Directs the commissioner to research 1:1 device programs, determine best practices, and make a report to the legislature.

Minnesota Assessment System Disruptions; Assessment Results. Requires education commissioner to contract with a qualified independent contractor to determine whether the students' 2015 MCA test results are an accurate reflection of students' achievement.

Minnesota Assessment System Contractor Performance Report. Directs the commissioner to report on the performance of the contractor for the Minnesota Assessment System, including agreed upon payment reductions, summary measure of stakeholder satisfaction with the system, and other information. Report due to legislature by February 10, 2016.



School Trust Lands Director. Term adjusted to five years. First term shall end December 31, 2020.

For a complete list of additional requirements and responsibilities for Minnesota Department of Education, go to page 23.

APPROPRIATIONS

Items	FY2016	FY2017
Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program	\$200,000	\$200,000
Agriculture Teacher Program	\$225,000	\$225,000
Agriculture Online Courses	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Year-Long Student Teaching (pilot program)	\$200,000	
New Concurrent Enrollment Course Development Grants (CTE electives)	\$225,000	\$225,000
Concurrent Enrollment Expansion Grants	\$115,000	\$115,000
College Possible	\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,265,000	\$1,065,000

TEACHER SHORTAGE



Loan Forgiveness Program. Establishes a loan forgiveness program available for up to five years to newly licensed teachers and teachers adding a licensure field in an identified teacher shortage area (\$200,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$200,000 in fiscal year 2017).

Agriculture Teacher Program. Creates a teacher preparation program leading to licensure in agricultural education at Southwest Minnesota State University (\$225,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$225,000 in fiscal year 2017).

Agriculture Online Courses. Funds development and teaching online agriculture courses by farm business management faculty at colleges that offer that program (\$50,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$50,000 in fiscal year 2017).

TEACHER PREPARATION

Year-Long Student Teaching. Directs MnSCU to offer a pilot program to teacher candidates as a year-long student teaching experience. The Board of Trustees must report to the K-12 and higher education committees of the legislature by March 1, 2017 (\$200,000 in fiscal year 2016 to award up to two grants).

CAREER AND COLLEGE READY



Concurrent Enrollment Expansion Grants. Establishes grants to postsecondary institutions currently sponsoring a concurrent enrollment course to expand existing programs (\$115,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$115,000 in fiscal year 2017).



New Concurrent Enrollment Courses. Develops new concurrent enrollment courses to satisfy the elective standard for career and technical education (\$225,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$225,000 in fiscal year 2017).

College Possible. Provides funding for College Possible, which supports programs for low-income high school students (\$250,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2017).

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT UNIFORMITY

Accreditation for Concurrent Enrollment Program. Requires postsecondary institutions to adopt and implement the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership's program standards by the 2020-2021 school year.

Advisory Board. Requires postsecondary institutions offering courses taught by a secondary teacher to establish an advisory board. The purpose of the advisory board is to engage stakeholders in concurrent enrollment decisions.

Participant Survey. Requires postsecondary institutions offering courses taught by a secondary teacher to conduct an annual survey and report all required survey results by September 1 to the commissioners of the Office of Higher Education and the Department of Education. The commissioners are required to report by December 1 of each year to the committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over early education through grade 12 education.

RELATED TO EDUCATION

Environment and Natural Resources – Special Session S.F. 5

SCHOOL TRUST LANDS



School Trust Lands Sales and Exchanges. \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 second year are from the state forest suspense account in the permanent school fund for the school trust lands director to accelerate land exchanges, land sales, and commercial leasing of school trust lands, and to identify, evaluate, and lease construction aggregate located on school trust lands. This appropriation is to be used for securing long-term economic return from the school trust lands consistent with fiduciary responsibilities and sound natural resources conservation and management principles.



Condemnation of School Trust Land. The purpose of this section is to extinguish the school trust interest in school trust lands where long-term economic return is prohibited by designation or policy while producing economic benefits for Minnesota's public schools. For the purposes of satisfying the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 8, which limits the sale of school trust lands to a public sale, the commissioner of natural resources shall acquire school trust lands through condemnation.



Surplus State Land Sales. The school trust lands director shall identify, in consultation with the commissioner of natural resources, at least \$5,000,000 in state-owned lands suitable for sale and sell at least \$3,000,000 of the land by June 30, 2017.

School Trust Lands Director Location. Strikes the requirement that the Department of Administration shall provide office space for the director.

Legacy – Special Session S.F. 1

Indian Affairs Council. Provides funding to the Indian Affairs Council for language immersion programs.

- \$990,000 each year is for the Indian Affairs Council to provide grants to preserve Dakota and Ojibwe Indian language and to foster education programs and immersion programs in Dakota and Ojibwe language.
- \$125,000 each year is to the Indian Affairs Council for a grant to the Niiganne Ojibwe Immersion School.
- \$125,000 each year is to the Indian Affairs Council for a grant to the Wicoie Nandagikendan Urban Immersion Project.

Regional Public Libraries Grants. Provides funding to Department of Education for grants to the Minnesota regional library system (\$2,200,000 each year).

Jobs and Economic Development – Special Session H.F. 3



Broadband Funding. Provides a one-time appropriation for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program to fund critical broadband initiatives in order to expand high-speed Internet access across the state (\$10,588,000 in Fiscal Year 2016).

The bill also appropriates base funding for the Office of Broadband Development within the Department of Employment and Economic Development (\$250,000 each year).

Rural Career Counseling Coordinators. Requires workforce service areas outside of the metropolitan area to have a career counseling coordinator. Coordinator's responsibilities include assessing and compiling information about all workforce development programs and services offered in assigned area at higher education institutions, adult basic education programs, and K-12 schools.

Minnesota Youth Program. Provides funding for career and employment advising, including career guidance in secondary schools (\$4,050,000 each year of the biennium).

Public Employment Relations Board. Delays the effective date of 2014 changes to the Public Employment Relations Board to July 1, 2016. Allows public-employment unfair labor practice charges to be brought in the district court until July 1, 2016.

Elections – S.F. 445



Size of School Board. If approved by the voting public, school boards may reduce the size of the school board to six from seven school board members. Three members instead of four members should be elected at the next election.

Special Election for School Board Vacancy. Requires a school board to hold a special election when a school board vacancy of more than one year occurs. The school board may, by resolution, call for special election according to the earliest of the following time schedule:

- Not less than 120 days after the vacancy occurs, but no later than 12 weeks prior to the date of next regularly scheduled primary;
- Concurrently with the next regularly scheduled primary or general election, or no sooner than 120 days following the next regularly scheduled election;
- The individual who wins a special election shall take office immediately after receipt of the certificate of election.

Appointment for School Board Vacancy. Allows for an appointment, at a special or regular board meeting, when a school board vacancy of less than one year of the unexpired term occurs, unless the vacancy occurs within 90 days of the next school district general election. In that case, the position must stay open until the general election.

A public hearing must be held and the appointment must be evidenced by resolution in the minutes and continue until an election is held. A public hearing must be held not more than 30 days after the vacancy has occurred, and public notice must be given in the same way notice for a special meeting is given. At this meeting, board members must invite the public testimony from persons residing in the district in which the vacancy occurs.

Before an appointment is made, the school board must notify public officials in the school district on the appointment including: county commissioners, town supervisors, and city council members. A list of the officials contacted shall be part of the official record listed by names and addresses at a public meeting.

If the remaining school board members cannot agree upon an individual to appoint, the school board must hold a special election, and the new election timeline begins to run from the date of the hearing.

High School Election Judges. Permits high school students to serve as a trainee election judge in the county in which the student resides or an adjacent county.

Nonpartisan Offices Clarified. Defines nonpartisan offices as all judicial, county, municipal, school district, and special district offices.

Effective date for above provisions is July 1, 2015.

DISCLOSURE

Disclaimer Requirement. Specifies that the disclosure requirements for school board candidates and referendum campaigns do not apply to:

- Small items such as bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, or other similar items where it is inconvenient to print the disclaimer;
- Advertisements including skywriting, wearing apparel, or similar means where disclaimers would be impracticable; or
- Online banner ads and similar electronic communications that directly link to an online page that has a disclaimer.

The above listed items are also exempt from the independent expenditure disclosure requirement.

Literature that is clearly distributed by the candidate, such as business cards or similar items, is exempt from the disclaimer requirement. Material that is produced and disseminated without cost may omit words “paid for” from the disclaimer.

The part of the disclosure disclaimer statement is eliminated that specifies if campaign material is circulated “in opposition to... (insert name of candidate or ballot question...)” or that “this publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.”

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Annual Statement. Requires school board members who file a statement of economic interest to also submit an annual statement by the last Monday in January (moved up from April 15) of each year in office. Annual statement must include the amount of each honorarium in excess of \$50 received during the previous year.

BALLOT QUESTION POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Registration and Reporting. Adds a new triggering date that requires both the registration and report to be filed by the report due date, if the \$750 reporting threshold is met. The treasurer of an independent expenditure or ballot question political committee is required to register with the Board by the earlier of three dates:

1. No later than 14 days after the committee or association registering the political funds has received aggregate contribution for expenditures or made aggregate expenditure:
 - For independent expenditures of more than \$1,500 in a calendar year; or
 - If a committee raises or spends more than \$5,000 in a calendar year on a campaign to promote or defeat a ballot question.
2. No later than the next report of receipts and expenditures filing date applicable to the independent expenditure or ballot question committee or fund if reached the threshold in clause (1) before the end of the reporting period covered by that report; or
3. By the end the next business day after it has received a loan or contribution that must be reported and it has met one of the requirements of clause (1).

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION CREDIT

Political Contribution Credit. Eliminates the political contribution refund program for two years for contributions made after June 30, 2015 and before July 1, 2017.

Pensions – S.F. 1398

BACKGROUND

The Pensions Bill provides legislative direction to Minnesota's employees retirement funds. The three pension funds that affect school districts are: Teacher Retirement Association, St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association, and Public Employees Retirement Association because they provide a pension to every public school teacher, administrator, and other school employees.

MINOR CHANGES

Pension Assumptions. Does not change the assumptions for the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) and St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association (SPTRFA). All other state-managed pension funds interest rate actuarial assumption will drop to 8 percent, along with related reductions in salary and payroll growth assumptions.

TRA Post-Retirement Adjustment Trigger. Clarifies that after 90 percent of TRA funding ratio is reached only then can a cost of living increase be given for retirees. Under present estimates, that will not occur until 2031. Lastly, retirement language says that if the funding ratio should drop, then COLA could also drop.

Contribution Stabilizer. Revises the contribution stabilizer mechanisms for PERA and TRA by changing from a mandatory, automatic, rate-setting procedure to an advisory procedure. This change gives the TRA Board and PERA Board more flexibility in setting contribution rates for employees/employers.

Health and Human Services – H.F. 1458

Chemical Dependency Support Grants for Prevention. Establishes grants to nonprofit organizations to provide chemical dependency prevention programs in secondary schools. When making grants, the commissioner must consider the expertise, prior experience, and outcomes achieved by applicants that have provided prevention programming in secondary education environments with sufficient funds to match the grant given by the commissioner (\$150,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$150,000 in fiscal year 2017).

Children's Mental Health Grants. Includes school-linked mental health services in the expanded list of services and programs eligible to be funded by these grants.

Life-Saving Allergy Medication. Establishes parameters in which epinephrine auto-injectors may be obtained and used. This new section of law applies to recreation camps, colleges and universities, preschools and daycares, but does not include a school covered under section 121A.2207.

SAFE ROUTES

Safe Routes to School. Provides funding for the safe routes to school program (\$500,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2017).

Safe Routes to School Grant Eligibility. Allows a local government unit that is undergoing infrastructure expansion to access safe routes to school infrastructure grant only if it has adopted subdivision regulations requiring it to include safe routes to school infrastructure in new developments.

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources – S.F. 698

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Trap Shooting Sports Facility Grants. Provides \$132,000 for trap shooting sports facility grants.

Connecting Students with Watersheds through Hands-On Learning. Provides \$400,000 for an agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited to provide hands-on learning focused on water quality, groundwater, aquatic life, and watershed health stewardship. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Students Engaging Local Watersheds Using Mobile Technologies. Provides \$147,000 for an agreement with Twin Cities Public Television to deliver an experiential, project-based educational program using mobile technologies to empower at least 200 middle school students in 4-H programs to engage in understanding and protecting local water resources.

Mississippi River Water Journey Camps. Provides \$25,000 to the University of Minnesota to design and pilot two week-long summer camps for youth ages 6 to 11 focused around clean water and the Mississippi River and designed to get children outdoors exploring and engaged with the natural environment and creating educational materials to help their communities protect water quality.

ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Administrative

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance. Requires that a district or intermediate district have a ten-year facilities maintenance plan adopted by its board and approved by the commissioner.

Compensatory Education Revenue. Allows school board flexibility to allocate up to 50 percent of the revenue according to a plan adopted by the school board.

Paraprofessional Training. Annual training is now required for paraprofessionals that provide direct support to students with disabilities.

Student Teachers. Administrators must place a student teacher with a teacher with at least three years of experience and is not in a teacher improvement process.

Placement of Students. Prohibits school administrators from placing students (K-4) in the classroom of a teacher who is in the improvement process or has not had a summative evaluation if, in the prior year, that student was in the classroom of the teacher who received discipline, unless there is no other teacher at that grade. This also applies to grades 5 to 12, unless there is no other teacher at the school that teaches that subject area and grade.

Placing High School Students in Study Abroad Programs. Requires annual reporting by school districts and charter schools with enrolled students who participate in a foreign exchange, study or other travel abroad program. Districts and charter schools are also encouraged to adopt policies to help ensure students' health and safety. Requires program providers to register with the secretary of state to be eligible to offer a program under this statute.

Literacy Incentive Aid. Requires a district to submit its local literacy plan as a condition of getting proficiency and growth aid.

Screening Program Vision Exam. Requires an early childhood developmental screening program to record the date of the child's most recent comprehensive vision exam, if any.

Homelessness Reporting. Requires commissioner to include data on student homelessness among demographic factors that relate to student performance.

Academic

Statewide Graduation Requirement. ACT must be offered at the high school and students are given a chance to take the test, but it is not a high school graduation requirement. Requires a district to pay, one-time cost for an interested student in grade 11 or 12.

MCA for Graduation Requirements. Requires high school students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2014-2015 school year and later to demonstrate their understanding of required academic standards on state-developed reading, writing (new - when becomes available), and math tests instead of a nationally normed college entrance exam as a condition of graduating from high school.

Limits on Local Testing. Limits the amount of time spent on locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments. Limits are 10 hours per school for grades 1-6 and 11 hours per school for grades 7-12, excluding IB and AP. A district may be exempt if, after consulting with the teachers, the school district reports reasons in World's Best Workforce Report.

Elective Standards. Directs school districts to use the world language standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages when offering world language electives.

WBW Annual Evaluations. Directs the education commissioner to annually report to the legislature those districts that have not submitted reports or met performance goals under the World's Best Workforce law.

Technology

Student Information Systems; Transferring Records. School districts may contract only for a student information system that is Schools Interoperability Framework compliant and compatible.

ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Administrative

Report of Rigorous Course Taking; AP; IB; and PSEO. In the annual legislative report on rigorous course taking, the education commissioner must disaggregate the data by student group, school district, and postsecondary institution and must include information on participation and expenditures for career and technical education courses offered as a concurrent enrollment course.

WBW Annual Evaluations. Directs the education commissioner to annually report to the legislature those districts that have not submitted reports or met performance goals under the World's Best Workforce law.

Homelessness Reporting. Requires commissioner to include data on student homelessness among demographic factors that relate to student performance.

Special and Extenuating Circumstances for Assessments. Department of Education will develop a list of circumstances in which a student may be unable to take a test without a penalty.

Efficiencies to Reduce Paperwork. Directs the education department, in collaboration with special education teachers and administrators in schools and districts, to identify strategies to reduce the time spent completing paperwork. Directs the department to disseminate successful strategies to other districts and schools.

Technology

1:1 Device Program Guidelines. Directs the commissioner to research 1:1 device programs, determine best practices, and make a report to the legislature.

Minnesota Assessment System Disruptions; Assessment Results. Requires education commissioner to contract with qualified independent contractor to determine whether the students' 2015 MCA test results are an accurate reflection of students' achievement.

Study

Examining and Developing Statewide Swimming Resources. Directs the commissioner to report on the extent of existing resources and best practices available for swimming instruction in Minnesota public schools. Directs the commissioner to establish a work group of interested stakeholders to report to the legislature by February 1, 2016, on the curriculum, resources, personnel, and other costs needed to make swimming instruction available in all Minnesota public schools for children beginning at an early age.

REPORTS DUE TO LEGISLATURE

Developmental Course Taking Report. Requires the collection and reporting of tuition costs incurred by students enrolled in noncredit-bearing college courses for developmental or remedial purposes and name of high school from which student graduated from. Report to the legislature January 1, 2016.

Minnesota Assessment System Contractor Performance Report. Directs the commissioner to report on the performance of the contractor for the Minnesota Assessment System, including agreed upon payment reductions, summary measure of stakeholder satisfaction with the system, and other information. Report due to legislature by February 10, 2016.

Concurrent Enrollment Participant Survey. Requires postsecondary institutions offering courses taught by a secondary teacher to conduct an annual survey and report all required survey results by September 1 to the commissioners of the Office of Higher Education and the Department of Education. The commissioners are required to report by December 1 of each year to the committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over early education through grade 12 education.

Homelessness Reporting. Requires commissioner to include data on student homelessness among demographic factors that relate to student performance.

Screening Program Vision Exam. Directs the commissioner to make a report to the legislature describing the number and proportion of children who indicate that they have received a comprehensive vision examination.

Teacher and Administrator Preparation and Performance Data. Directs the Board of Teaching and the Board of School Administrators, in cooperation with Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) and Minnesota colleges and universities offering board-approved teacher preparation programs, annually to collect, report and post summary data on teacher and school administrator preparation and performance outcomes. This information will be published on web site hosted jointly by the boards.

MnSCU Transfer Curriculum Report. Directs the MnSCU chancellor to prepare and submit to the K-12 and higher education committees of the legislature by February 1, 2016, a report on implementing the transfer curriculum policy for PSEO students and how to standardize Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and CLEP course equivalencies across all state colleges and universities.

Report of Rigorous Course Taking; AP; IB; and PSEO. In the annual legislative report on rigorous course taking, the education commissioner must disaggregate the data by student group, school district, and postsecondary institution and must include information on participation and expenditures for career and technical education courses offered as a concurrent enrollment course.

Service Learning. Requires Board of Teaching to make recommendations to the legislature on teacher preparation and licensure requirements in the area of service-learning and submit the recommendations to the legislature by February 16, 2016.

Examining and Developing Statewide Swimming Resources. Directs the commissioner to report on the extent of existing resources and best practices available for swimming instruction in Minnesota public schools. Directs the commissioner to establish a work group of interested stakeholders to report to the legislature by February 1, 2016, on the curriculum, resources, personnel, and other costs needed to make swimming instruction available in all Minnesota public schools for children beginning at an early age.

1:1 Device Program Guidelines. Directs the commissioner to research 1:1 device programs, determine best practices, and make a report to the legislature.

Year-Long Student Teaching. Directs MnSCU to offer a pilot program to teacher candidates as a year-long student teaching experience. The Board of Trustees must report to the K-12 and higher education committees of the legislature by March 1, 2017.

ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2016

The 2016 legislative session promises to be shorter, beginning on Tuesday, March 8. In even numbered years, bonding bills are the major focus of the work. Although the second year of the biennium is not a budget year, supplemental spending or reduction proposals will be debated if revenue collections are different than what was projected in 2015. It is important to note that general fund revenue was left on the table this year, which will generate discussion around transportation and tax issues not addressed in 2015.

Looking ahead to the next session, MSBA staff will be holding MSBA Statewide Advocacy Tour (formerly Fall Regional Meetings) in September across the state. We encourage your participation in these meetings as they are the initial step in generating the 2016 MSBA Legislative Agenda.

Please take the time to get involved in the MSBA Statewide Advocacy Tour (formerly Fall Regional Meetings), resolution writing process or consider becoming a delegate for the MSBA Delegate Assembly Conference held in December.

- \$850 million unspent from 2015 (for tax relief and transportation)
- Taxes
 - Referendum ballot language (board-approved LOR)
 - Referendum election dates
 - K-12 Education tax credit and subtraction
 - Teacher tax credit for obtaining master's degree
 - School building bond agriculture credit
 - Sales tax exemption instructional materials
- Unrequested leave of absence / "last in first out"
- Pre-Labor Day school start
- Teacher Mentorship
- Physical Education Standards
- Technology funding
- Telecommunications funding
- Elections: June primary and board vacancy fix
- Student support services
- Pre-Kindergarten standards by Minnesota Department of Education
- Universal pre-K
- Pensions
- Student data privacy
- School safety
- School Trust Lands Director
- Basic formula indexed for inflation
- Testing
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Thank You

We hope you found our MSBA 2015 Legislative Summary helpful in your important role as a school board member.

Thank you for your help in "Standing Up for Public Schools" throughout the 2015 legislative session. As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns.

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education

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education

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School boards
strengthen
public
education

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To access "Stand Up for Public Schools" resources go to:
<http://www.mnmsba.org/StandUpForPublicSchools>

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