

## **Duluth Head Start Enrollment Reduction**

**We are requesting to convert two half day classes to full day classes for the following reasons:**

- 2 Half Day sessions have been severely under enrolled
- When these same classrooms had higher enrollment, there was also higher volatility in the numbers with families more likely to drop during the school year
- When families rank their choices for classrooms, they typically select Full Day
- Full Day classes allow the option of transportation to four year old students which eliminates the transportation barrier

**This conversion results in an Enrollment Reduction of 34 Head Start seats.**

- Staffing will remain the same, though there will be 34 fewer Head Start slots.
- According to our Community Needs Assessment, there are other options available for the 34 seats to be filled outside of the Duluth Head Start program

**This will result in Duluth Head Start receiving a higher cost per child.**

- We currently receive \$12,523 per child. With this reduction that would increase to \$14,764 per child. In MN, costs per child in Head Start programs ranges from \$9,781 to \$28,693.
- This cost per child is the number State Head Start dollars fund with, so any resulting increase, will result in an increase in State funding as well.

We ask that you approve this request.

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Jill Lofald, School Board Chair

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Shandi Mickle, Policy Council Chair

