

## 2017 SPECIAL SESSION -- EDUCATION FINANCE, TAX AND LICENSURE PROPOSALS

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### Budget Targets and Per Pupil Formula

|                        | Budget target           | Formula increase                    | Percent increase |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Governor               | \$709 million           | \$121 per pupil per year            | 2%               |
| House                  | \$270 million           | \$76 in FY18, \$77 in FY19          | 1.25%            |
| Senate                 | \$300 million           | \$91 per pupil per year             | 1.5%             |
| House/Senate           | \$303.5 million         | \$91 per pupil per year             | 1.5%             |
| <b>Special session</b> | <b>\$483.25 million</b> | <b>\$121 in FY18, \$124 in FY19</b> | <b>2%</b>        |

### K-12 Education Provisions

**Last In-First Out:** Requires the school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers to negotiate an unrequested leave of absence plan.

**Compensatory Revenue:** Requires districts to use any new compensatory funds (because of additional formula increases) for extended time purposes only. Adds compensatory pilot grants to on-going compensatory revenue.

**Teacher Shortage:** Increases funding for Collaborative Urban Educator, Grow Your Own, Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training grants, and teacher loan forgiveness.

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment:** Provides \$3.8 million for unreimbursed transportation costs. Sets the funding equal to 18% of the difference between each school district's to and from school transportation costs and the sum of its transportation sparsity revenue, charter school transportation adjustment, and 4.66 percent of its basic formula revenue.

**PSEO:** Requires a school to allow a student enrolled in a PSEO course to remain at the school site during the regular school day. Requires the school to adopt a policy that provides reasonable access to computers and technology during the school day. Requires a school board to adopt a policy regarding weighted grade point averages for students in dual enrollment courses.

**Innovation Zones:** Allows a group of school districts to form an innovation zone to research and implement innovative education programming models.

**Testing:** Provides reimbursement only for students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch.

**Food Service Contracts:** Allows a school district food service management company to comply with federal regulations to allow for contract renewals for up to four additional years.

**Lead testing:** Requires the commissioners of health and education to develop a model plan to require school districts to test for lead in school drinking water. Requires school districts to either adopt the model plan or an alternative plan to test school water for lead. Requires testing at least every five years. A school district must begin testing by July 1, 2018, and complete testing within five years.

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Allows school districts to include lead testing and remediation in plan used to qualify for long-term facilities maintenance revenue.

**Referendum Notices:** Allows a school district to mail referendum notice by bulk mail rather than first class.

**MDE:** Appropriates \$3.25 million in FY18-FY19 to MDE for mainframe update.

### Early Learning and Community Education Provisions

**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and new School Readiness Plus Program:** Maintains current voluntary pre-K program but establishes a new program called School Readiness Plus. Appropriates \$50 million in FY18 and FY19 for this new program. In addition, the bill:

- spells out program requirements very like current VPK requirements
- allows a district to apply either for VPK funding or school readiness plus funding (this funding is only available in FY18 and FY19)
- targets funding for four-year olds based in a set of risk factors
- allows new funding only to supplement and not supplant existing state, federal, and local revenue

**ECFE:** No change to current law but because ECFE is tied to any per-pupil formula increases, ECFE revenue will increase by \$3.2 million.

#### Early Learning Scholarships:

- Freezes PWII funding at the current funding level.
- Appropriates an additional \$20.6 million for early learning scholarships.
- Postpones to 2020 for which a program must have a three- or four-star rating to accept an early learning scholarship.
- Requires that priority be made for children whose parents have children under age 21, who is pursuing high school or general education equivalency diploma; are in foster care or otherwise in need of protection or services; or have experienced homelessness, as defined under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, in the last 24 months.

**Adult Basic Education (ABE):** Removes specific references to GED test and replaces terminology with commissioner-selected equivalency test.

### Tax Provisions

**School Building Bond Agricultural Credit:** Provides a property tax credit on all property classified as agricultural, excluding the house, garage, and surrounding one acre of land of an agricultural homestead, equal to 40 percent of the tax on the property attributable to school district bonded debt levies. Provides an open and standing appropriation to pay for the credit. Effective beginning with taxes payable in 2018.

### Teacher Licensure

The special session bill includes the provisions from HF140, which was originally vetoed by Governor Dayton. It establishes four teacher licensure tiers and creates a new Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).

**Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board:** Eliminate the Board of Teaching and establishes Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB). The 11-member made up of:

- 1) Six teachers who have at least five years of teaching experience and not serving in an administrative function at a school when appointed. This selection must be comprised of:
  - One teacher from a charter school, one from the seven-county metro area and one from outside of the seven-county metro area, one from a related service category licensed by the board, a special education teacher, and a teacher from a teacher preparation program
- 2) One superintendent, who alternates each term between a superintendent from the seven-county metro area and a superintendent from outside the seven-county metro area
- 3) One district human resources director
- 4) One administrator from a cooperative unit
- 5) One elementary or secondary school principal that alternates each term
- 6) One member of the public that may be a current or former school board member

Duties of the board include:

- Administering Staff Automated Reporting (STAR) system
- Licensing and credentialing of teachers and school personnel from administered by the Board of Teaching and MDE
- Adopting rules to approve teacher preparation programs including alternative teacher preparation programs
- Administering Teacher Supply and Demand Report

**Tiered Licensure:** Establishes four teacher licensure tiers as follows:

#### **Tier 1**

One year term, renewable no more than three times, unless the requesting district can show good cause for additional renewals. A Tier 1 license in a shortage area may be renewed without limitation. The board must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 1 license to a candidate if:

- 1) the candidate has a bachelor's degree, unless they are teaching a career and technical education or career pathways course. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course, they have an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience
- 2) The district demonstrates that:
  - it has affirmed the candidate has the necessary skills and knowledge to teach in a specified

content area

- it has completed a criminal background check on the candidate
- the district has posted the teacher position but was unable to hire an acceptable teacher with a Tier 2, 3, or 4 license for the position

The PELSB must accept applications for a Tier 1 license beginning July 1 of the school year for which the license is requested and must issue or deny the Tier 1 license within 30 days. The PELSB must renew a Tier 1 license, if the district requesting the renewal demonstrates that:

- it has posted the teacher position but was unable to hire an acceptable teacher with a Tier 2, 3, or 4 license for the position
- the teacher holding the Tier 1 license took a content examination

A teacher with a Tier 1 license:

- is limited to the content matter indicated on the application for the initial Tier 1 license
- is not included within the statutory definition of a teacher
- must participate in the employing district's mentorship program and must participate in the teacher development an evaluation system, to the extent practicable

### **Tier 2**

Two-year term, renewable two times. The PELSB must accept applications for a Tier 2 license beginning July 1 of the school year for which the license is requested and must issue or deny the Tier 2 license within 30 days. The Board must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 2 license in a specified content area to a candidate if:

- 1) The candidate has a bachelor's degree to teach a class, outside a career and technical education or career pathways course of study. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course, they have an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience.
- 2) Is enrolled in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program; or has a master's degree in the specified content area
- 3) The district demonstrates that it has completed a criminal background check on the candidate
- 4) A candidate for a Tier 2 license must meet two of the following:
  - at least eight upper division credits in the relevant content area
  - field-specific methods of training, including coursework
  - at least two years of teaching experience in a similar content area in any state as determined by the Board
  - a passing score on the pedagogy and content exams
  - completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program

A teacher with Tier 2 license:

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- is limited to the content matter indicated on the application for the initial Tier 2 license
- is not included within the statutory definition of a teacher
- must be credited the time towards the three-year probationary period but any time credited under must run consecutively
- must participate in the employing district mentorship program and must participate in the teacher development an evaluation system, to the extent practicable

### **Tier 3**

Three-year term, renewable every three years without limitation. The Board must approve a request from a district to issue a Tier 3 license in a specified content area to a candidate if the candidate demonstrates each of the following:

- 1) The candidate has a bachelor's degree to teach a class, outside a career and technical education or career pathways course of study, is enrolled in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program; or has a master's degree in the specified content area. If a candidate is teaching in a career and technical education or career pathways course, they have an associate's degree, a professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience.
- 2) The candidate has obtained a passing score on all required licensure exams
- 3) The candidate has completed one of the following:
  - a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program
  - completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program that includes field-specific student teaching equivalent to field-specific student teaching in Minnesota-approved teacher preparation programs; does not apply to a candidate that has two years of teaching experience
  - submission of a content-specific portfolio
  - a professional teaching license from another state, evidence that the candidate's license is in good standing, and two years of teaching experience
  - three years of teaching experience under a Tier 2 license, and evidence of summative teacher evaluations that did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher on an improvement process

A teacher holding a Tier 3 license:

- must participate in the district's mentorship and evaluation program, including an individual growth and development plan

### **Tier 4**

Five-year term, renewable every five years without limitation. The Board must issue a Tier 4 license to a candidate who provides information sufficient to demonstrate each of the following:

- 1) The candidate meets all the requirements for a Tier 3 license
- 2) The candidate has at least three years of teaching experience in Minnesota
- 3) The candidate has obtained a passing score on all required licensure exams
- 4) The candidate's most recent summative teacher evaluation did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher in an improvement process

A teacher holding a Tier 4 license must participate in the district's mentorship and evaluation program, including an individual growth and development plan.

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Licensure via portfolio: Directs the PELSB to establish a process for a teacher candidate to obtain any license or to add a licensure field, via portfolio. A candidate for a license must submit to the board one portfolio demonstrating pedagogical competence and one portfolio demonstrating content competence. A candidate seeking to add a licensure field must submit to the board one portfolio demonstrating content competence for each licensure field the candidate seeks to add.

Reports: The bill consolidates many school district and statewide reports on teacher shortages into one section as well as rules for teacher preparation programs.

Teacher licensure assessment: The PELSB must adopt rules requiring a candidate to demonstrate a passing score on a board-adopted exam in reading, writing, and math before granting a Tier 4 license. The board must adopt rules requiring candidates for Tier 3 and Tier 4 to pass an examination of general pedagogical knowledge and examinations of licensure-specific content.

The requirement to pass a board-adopted skills examination does not apply to nonnative English speakers, as verified by qualified Minnesota school district personnel or Minnesota higher education faculty, who after meeting the content and pedagogy requirements, apply for a teaching license to provide a direct instruction in their native language or world language.

Special education licenses: Directs the PELSB to conduct a review of all the available teacher of special education licenses and determine the options for cross-categorical licenses for teachers of special education. Directs the existing Board of Teaching, by September 1, 2017, to amend Minnesota Rules so that the academic and behavioral strategist continuing licenses under that part may be issued and renewed according to rules of the Board of Teaching governing continuing licenses and without requiring the candidate to hold or be recommended for licensure in any other licensure field.