



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 9, 2017

We'll post the [Legislative Update and Bill Tracker](#) on the Child Care Aware of Minnesota website each Tuesday to reflect the activity through the previous Friday. You can read a brief overview of introduced bills, committee level or floor action, and other news related to **early care and education and school age care**. If you have questions or additions to recommend, please email Ann McCully at: AnnM@childcareawaremn.org.

OMNIBUS BILLS/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WORK

The conference committees have completed their work and delivered their reports. At this point, these bills are on hold while House and Senate Leadership negotiate with the Governor, so nothing has yet been sent to the floor for a vote. What follows is a summary of how each of these bills will impact early care and education issues. **Keep in mind that these are starting points for negotiations, and subject to change.**

OMNIBUS EDUCATION BILL – HF 890

- Repeals the **voluntary Pre-Kindergarten** program and funding (approximately \$41 million), but substitutes school readiness funds for existing VPK programs so that they can continue in the next biennium.
- Creates an **Education Partnership Coalition Fund** to continue and expand the work of some of the Promise Neighborhoods/Transformation zones.
- Increases funding and makes changes to **the Early Learning Scholarship program** as follows:
 - Broadens eligibility to include a child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course of study for a high school equivalency test; homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.
 - Caps the **“Pathway 2”** scholarship funding, which provides direct funding for program spaces, at current levels.
 - Delays the requirement for programs to have a 3 or 4 star Rating in order to accept scholarships to **July 1, 2022**.
- **The following programs would receive an increase over the current base funding:**

PROGRAM	BASE FY 18-19	Conf. Committee recommendation	BASE FY 20-21	Conf. Committee recommendation
Minnesota Reading Corps	\$11.25 million	\$12.25 million	\$11.25 million	\$14.25 million
School Readiness (covers current VPK programs)	\$67.4 million	\$112.9 million	\$67.4 million	\$115.3 million
Early Learning Scholarships	\$119.8 million	\$138.8 million	\$119.8 million	\$139.8 million
ECFE (formula increase)	\$59.5 million	\$61.6 million	\$61.5 million	\$64.7 million
Parent-Child home	\$700,000	\$1.8 million	\$700,000	\$1.8 million
Transformation Zone-NAZ	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million
Transformation Zone- SPPN	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million
Greater MN Ed. Partnership	-	\$960,000	-	\$960,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL – SF 800

- Sets MA payment rates for prenatal and post-partum follow-up **home visits** provided by a public health nurse, or a registered nurse supervised by a public health nurse, using evidence-based models, at a minimum of \$140 per visit.
- Adds new funding for start-up and expansion grants to community health boards, nonprofit organizations, and tribal nations to start up or expand **evidence-based home visiting programs**.
- Implements a pilot program to increase awareness and encourage **early preventive dental disease interventions for infants and toddlers**.
- Modifies CCAP rates by setting the maximum rate for child care providers who are located **within the boundaries of a city located in two or more of the counties of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns** at the maximum rate paid in the county with the highest maximum reimbursement rates or the provider’s charge, whichever is less.
- Incorporates the Governor’s proposed changes to the Child Care Assistance program to address **program integrity concerns** including recipient potential fraud and misuse, provider fraud, and administrative errors.
- Specifies that “annual” or “annually” in family child care training requirements means the **12-month period beginning on the license anniversary** and ending the day prior to the anniversary.
- Clarifies that an individual who is related to the license holder and who is involved only in the care of the license holder's own infant or child under school age and who is not designated to be a caregiver, helper, or substitute for the licensed program, is **exempt from the sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma training**.
- Requires a licensing agency to offer a **child care license holder an exit interview** to discuss violations observed during inspection and offer technical assistance to help the license holder comply, before completing a licensing inspection.
- Requires the commissioner to issue **an amended correction order** and requires the license holder to post the amended order, if the commissioner reverses or rescinds a violation in a correction order upon reconsideration.
- Prohibits the commissioner and county licensing agencies **from mandating or suggesting quotas** for issuing correction orders to any person responsible for licensing or inspecting child care centers or family child care providers.
- Requires the commissioner to issue a **“fix-it ticket”** to a child care license holder under a variety of specific situations.
- Requires DHS to **timely inform family child care and child care center license holders of changes** in federal and state statute, rule, regulation, or policy, relating to child care, child care assistance, child care quality rating and improvement, and licensing functions, in order to promote license holder compliance with changes.
- Requires the commissioner of human services to provide a **report on the status of child care** in Minnesota to the chairs and ranking minority members of committees with jurisdiction over child care, by February 1, 2018.
- Exempts licensed family day care programs, licensed group family day care facilities, and licensed child care centers from Minnesota Rules, chapter 9544, **the positive supports rule**.
- Directs the commissioner to **develop guidelines for posting public licensing data** for licensed child care programs.
- **Repeals state statute** related to the Family Child Care Providers Representation Act (unionization).
- Re-establishes funding for the **At Home Infant Care option** under the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Provides funding for the **Minnesota Birth to Eight Pilot Project** that will evaluate the impact of a coordinated systems and service delivery approach on key developmental milestones and outcomes.
- **The following programs would receive an increase over the current base funding:**

PROGRAM	Conf. Committee recommendation FY 18-19	Conf. Committee recommendation 20-21
Child Care Assistance multi-county rate adj.	\$142,000	\$149,000
Child Care Assistance Program integrity (savings)	(\$14.4 million)	(\$26.7 million)
Public Health Nurse Home visiting-MA increase	\$614,000	\$1.2 million
Dental Services Grants	\$1 million	
At Home Infant Care Program	\$2.25 million	\$2.05 million
Dakota County Birth to Eight project	\$200,000	
Evidence Based Nurse Home Visiting	\$3 million	\$1.5 million

OMNIBUS TAX BILL – HF 4

The bill includes the following tax policy changes:

- Expands the **Education expense credit** and deduction to include prekindergarten expenses.
- Makes some changes/inflation adjustments to the **Dependent Care Tax Credit**.

OMNIBUS HIGHER EDUCATION BILL – SF 2214

The bill includes the following funding and policy changes:

- Increases the amount of **child care grants** to \$3,000 and extends the time for use for the grant to ten semesters.
- Requires Postsecondary educational institutions required to **provide information** to pregnant students and student parents.

OMNIBUS JOBS BILL – SF 1937

No provisions to fund early care and education were included in the final conference committee bill.

UPCOMING DATES

- **May 22:** Session adjournment deadline