



Adequate Funding on the Basic General Education Formula SF163 Senator Hoffman & HF350 Representative Uglen

The basic general education formula is the source of revenue all of our school districts depend on to provide appropriate educational services to our students. It is the fairest, most equitable funding that benefits all of the 850,000 students who attend our public schools day in and day out – they are our state’s future workforce.

- Basic general education formula revenue is the primary source of funding public education in our state.
- In the past decade, the state has not kept with inflation; \$300 per pupil each year of the biennium would correct the “inflation gap”.
- Inflation is a real cost in terms of education finance since most of our budgets are dedicated to staff and benefits.
- When inflation is not funded, school districts must make reductions such as teacher layoffs and increasing class size.
- Inflationary increases in funding are necessary to adequately prepare 850,000 students to be successful each year and prepared for the 21st century workforce.

School Readiness SF155 Senator Wiger HF252 Representative Newton & HF226 Representative Halverson

Nearly every school district in Minnesota has School Readiness as an early learning program. The program targets at risk learners as a first priority. The state aid is combined with a variety of local funding sources including a sliding fee schedule for parents who are not in poverty. School districts can run a program for preschoolers, or provide scholarship to place students in high quality early learning environments, or do both.

Participation is voluntary. The length of the program is varied to meet various learning needs and family schedules. The combination of state aid targeted at children in poverty and a sliding fee for other families makes for heterogeneous and diverse classrooms of early learners, and efficient use of state resources. Many schools make arrangement with child care providers for wrap around child care for parents requiring that service.

- The state has 150,000 three and four year olds with approximately 40% in poverty.
- School districts have been achieving strong student results with measures indicating 75%-90% readiness for kindergarten with at risk populations.
- The program is based on strong public policy, but has been chronically underfunded for decades.
- School Readiness programs report that licensed teaching staff is used to deliver instruction.
- High quality early education can prepare more children for kindergarten.
- A state aid appropriation of \$50 million would allow school districts to reach many more of their at risk children. Current state funding for School Readiness is \$12 million.