Governor Dayton’s FY 2018-19 Education Budget Recommendations

Governor Dayton’s budget proposal continues his commitment to creating better opportunities for Minnesota’s children and families with $604 million in education investments.

$371 million general fund increase

- Increase in per-pupil formula by $121 in FY 2018 and an additional $124 in FY 2019 to keep Minnesota schools running and serving students.
- This is 2 percent and 2 percent on the formula.

$40 million special education

- In FY 2016, 133,678 children and youth from birth to age 21 received special education services from our schools.
- The governor’s bill includes an additional $40 million in special education funding over the biennium.
- This lowers the cross-subsidy by 3 percent. The cross-subsidy has grown from $600 million in FY 2014 to $683 million in FY 2017.

$74.8 million voluntary pre-kindergarten

- State-funded voluntary pre-K is currently serving 3,300 children in 74 districts and charters at no cost to families. 183 districts applied for funding and 60 percent were turned down due to lack of funding.
- The governor’s bill expands voluntary pre-K to serve 8,300 children in FY 2018 and 9,300 in FY 2019.

“The opportunity to succeed in life and create jobs in our economy is built on a world-class education. This budget would deliver excellent educations for all our students, starting with our youngest learners.”

-Governor Mark Dayton
$4.4 million supporting American Indian students

- Current state aid entitlement is projected to decrease by 45 percent between FY 2017 and FY 2018.
- Governor Dayton’s bill includes $4.4 million over the biennium to maintain American Indian Tribal contract equalization aid per pupil at the FY 2017 level of $3,230.

$4 million student support staff

- Minnesota has had one of the worst school counselor-to-student ratios in the nation. Data show that students benefit and have better outcomes when they have access to support services.
- The governor’s bill includes $4 million to fund up to 30 new student support positions.

$68.5 million pension relief

- The Teacher’s Retirement Association and St. Paul Teacher’s Retirement Fund Association serve over 188,000 active and retired pre-K through grade 12 teachers, administrators and college and university faculty.
- The governor’s bill helps school districts and charter schools honor their commitment to retirees with $22.8 million in FY 2018 and $45.7 million in FY 2019.

$41.1 million additional supports

- $1 million to support seven partnerships serving 24,000 kids and families.
- $2 million to expand full-service community schools.
- $20 million to increase the number of school districts receiving debt service aid to lower property taxes in 61 districts.
- $1.5 million for creation of an online Individualized Education Plan (IEP) system, reducing paperwork by up to 25 percent, allowing teachers to spend more time in the classroom.
- $3.2 million to update the department of education’s mainframe, which was built in 1974 and processes $8.7 billion in state and federal school aid per year and stores student data.
- $10.4 million to strengthen the department of education’s ability to help school districts meet their World’s Best Workforce Goals.
- $3 million to expand Help Me Grow, which reaches some of the highest risk children prenatal to age 8. The governor’s bill would help reach 630,000 children and families.