

## **Governor Proposes to Invest \$343 Million in Education**

For the Governor's Presentation and Overview, visit <http://mn.gov/mmb/images/16-17-ppt.pdf>

*"It's a great day for our kids," Commissioner Brenda Cassellius said. When combined with funding for dependent care, child care tax credit, child care assistance and other family support, over 75 percent of budget would go to children and families. [Learn more in her letter to Superintendents.](#)*

### **Education Proposal Highlights**

*Comments from the Commissioner's conference call with superintendents on January 27, 2015. Details are from the [MMB website.](#)*

- Increase per pupil formula
  - 1 percent increased over each year of the biennium
  - Represents \$174 million increase
  - The per pupil formula would increase by \$58, from \$5,831 to \$5,889 in FY 2016, and by an additional \$59 to \$5,948 in FY 2017.
  - Cassellius said this reflects the governor's commitment to increase funding education each year of his term with 'No exceptions. No excuses.'
- Early Childhood – "Add a grade"
  - Effort to add pre-k to public schools
  - Starts in FY '17 with \$106 million
  - Significant costs in the tails: \$161 million in FY '18, \$198 million in FY '19
  - Requires instructional content of sufficient duration and intensity including full-day (not less than 5 hours a day, 850 hours, 42 weeks per school year) and summer programming (8-10 week program meeting a minimum of 200 hours)
  - Students in an eligible program would be counted as one ADM if enrolled in the program for the full school year, and a pupil weight of 0.5 would be assigned to these students.
  - This proposal will require matching funds from districts to cover the cost of full-time programming during the school year as well as provide summer programming.
  - Phase in for percentage of licensed teachers required: Beginning in 2017, at least 25 percent of the classroom teachers must meet early childhood licensure requirement, 50 percent in 2018, 75 percent in 2019, and 100 percent by 2020.
  - Option to partner with Head Start or other high quality providers
  - Can be in school buildings or use to subsidize or contract with other high quality providers
  - "If I was a superintendent today, I'd find a way to do this," Commissioner Cassellius said.
- Early Childhood – Eliminate Head Start Waiting List
  - Effort to eliminate 4-year-olds on waiting list for Head Start
  - \$19 million in FY '17
  - 2,400 kids are currently on the list

- Reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
  - Support for Reading Corp. to serve another 14,000 students
  - Increases the current base of \$8.6 million to \$18.6 million for the FY 16-17 biennium and focuses resources on pre-kindergarten through grade 1.
  - Effort to ensure kids are reading by third grade, an initiative of the Governor's since 2011.
  - "We have evidence that this program is absolutely working, and it meets a critical need," Commissioner Cassellius said.
- Achievement Gap Reduction
  - Big focus of budget
  - Focuses on poorest students
  - Increase in funding for PBIS
    - Helps students in need and lowers suspensions
    - Would expand to serve another 600 schools with \$4.6 million in funding
  - Increase for Help Me Grow
    - Focus on enabling the state to align with the National Help Me Grow Model
    - \$2 million in funding
  - Increase in funding for English Learners
    - Expanded to 6 years in 2013 and now expanding to 7 years with this proposal.
    - \$7.9 million in biennium
  - American Indian and improving AMI graduation rates
    - Change Success for the Future grants to not be competitive
    - Funding go to all eligible Title VII schools.
    - Expands to 66 schools now, reaching 5,300 more students
    - \$4.4 million in biennium
  - Free school breakfast
    - For pre-K and grades 1-3, in addition to current free breakfast for kindergartners
    - \$28 million in biennium
  - Regional Centers of Excellence
    - Add \$6 million to support 200 more schools
    - Help schools build capacity and support systems

**What's not there, but remain priorities:**

The Commissioner commented on the following topics:

- Facilities

This is an expensive fix. Knows people are interested in this and it is still a priority of the governor. Wanted to focus on kids and families in this "first pass."
- Counselors

Encourage use per pupil funds to invest in counseling.
- Teachers Supply

This is also a huge concern, especially in rural areas. A proposal is in the works for teacher workforce development, but it is not ready yet. It may be introduced later in the session or in a supplemental budget.