

2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Advocating for Greater Minnesota Schools

EARLY LEARNING

While there is widespread understanding and support for the value of early learning and expanded preschool opportunities, Minnesota does not have a consensus on one program model to deliver high quality preschool education to all young children.

The legislature should:

- Expand quality early learning opportunities with fully funded, school-based, and mixed delivery models with flexibility for school districts to respond to wide variations in local settings including family needs, staff and space availability.
- Begin an education funding formula based on 1.2 ADM for 750 hours of instruction, prorated down to a minimum of 350 hours, to enable school districts to provide the highest likelihood for student success and readiness for kindergarten.
- Establish a new, equalized school facilities improvement revenue to replace the lease levy to provide needed classrooms.
- Continue the current school readiness funding to support programs for high needs three-year-olds and their families.

SUPPORT A SEAMLESS SYSTEM OF P-20 EDUCATION

Coordinated early learning investments and seamless transitions between high school and post-secondary education are cornerstones of career and college readiness to develop the World's Best Workforce.

The legislature should:

- Re-examine existing P-20 Partnership.
- Facilitate the ability of MNSCU institutions to partner with high schools to preserve the early college opportunities for juniors and seniors without interruptions in concurrent enrollment.
- Re-examine high school course and standards requirements to best equip young adults with the knowledge and life skills to manage their personal affairs, engage in civic life, and meet the complex challenges of the World's Best Workforce.

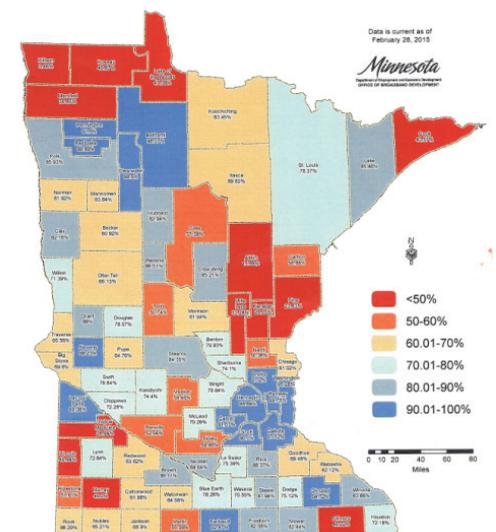
STRENGTHEN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Affordable, robust Internet connectivity for all rural homes is as important in the 21st century as bringing electricity to all rural farms was 80 years ago.

The legislature should:

- Expand funding for the Telecommunications Equity Access (TEA) and Regional Library Telecom Aid (RLTA) programs to ensure cost-effective, high-speed broadband access to learners of all ages.
- Expand broadband development grants to underserved, rural communities to further high-speed broadband Internet access at home for students and families and maximize student success with school based Internet device 1-to-1 initiatives.

At least 10 Mbps Download/5Mbps Upload Speeds
Statewide Availability: 86.46%



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