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ARTICLE 39

1.2

EARLY EDUCATION, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND LIFELONG LEARNING

1.3

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.151, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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Subd. 2. **Program requirements.** (a) A voluntary prekindergarten program provider

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must:

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(1) provide instruction through play-based learning to foster children's social and emotional development, cognitive development, physical and motor development, and language and literacy skills, including the native language and literacy skills of English learners, to the extent practicable;

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(2) measure each child's cognitive and social skills using a formative measure aligned to the state's early learning standards when the child enters and again before the child leaves the program, screening and progress monitoring measures, and ~~others~~ other age-appropriate versions from the state-approved menu of kindergarten entry profile measures;

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(3) provide comprehensive program content including the implementation of curriculum, assessment, and instructional strategies aligned with the state early learning standards, and kindergarten through grade 3 academic standards;

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(4) provide instructional content and activities that are of sufficient length and intensity to address learning needs including offering a program with at least 350 hours of instruction per school year for a prekindergarten student;

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(5) provide voluntary prekindergarten instructional staff salaries comparable to the salaries of local kindergarten through grade 12 instructional staff;

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(6) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with families, community-based prekindergarten programs, and school district kindergarten programs;

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(7) involve parents in program planning and transition planning by implementing parent engagement strategies that include culturally and linguistically responsive activities in prekindergarten through third grade that are aligned with early childhood family education under section 124D.13;

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(8) coordinate with relevant community-based services, including health and social service agencies, to ensure children have access to comprehensive services;

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(9) coordinate with all relevant school district programs and services including early childhood special education, homeless students, and English learners;

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(10) ensure staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and a maximum group size of 20 children;

2.1 (11) provide high-quality coordinated professional development, training, and coaching
 2.2 for both school district and community-based early learning providers that is informed by
 2.3 a measure of adult-child interactions and enables teachers to be highly knowledgeable in
 2.4 early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language development
 2.5 programs, and instruction; and

2.6 (12) implement strategies that support the alignment of professional development,
 2.7 instruction, assessments, and prekindergarten through grade 3 curricula.

2.8 (b) A voluntary prekindergarten program must have teachers knowledgeable in early
 2.9 childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language programs, and
 2.10 instruction.

2.11 (c) Districts and charter schools must include their strategy for implementing and
 2.12 measuring the impact of their voluntary prekindergarten program under section 120B.11
 2.13 and provide results in their world's best workforce annual summary to the commissioner of
 2.14 education.

2.15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 5, is amended
 2.16 to read:

2.17 Subd. 5. **Application process; priority for high poverty schools.** (a) ~~To qualify for~~
 2.18 ~~program approval for fiscal year 2017, a district or charter school must submit an application~~
 2.19 ~~to the commissioner by July 1, 2016.~~ To qualify for program approval for fiscal year 2018
 2.20 ~~and later~~, a district or charter school must submit an application to the commissioner by
 2.21 January 30 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the program will be
 2.22 implemented. The application must include:

2.23 (1) a description of the proposed program, including the number of hours per week the
 2.24 program will be offered at each school site or mixed-delivery location;

2.25 (2) an estimate of the number of eligible children to be served in the program at each
 2.26 school site or mixed-delivery location; and

2.27 (3) a statement of assurances signed by the superintendent or charter school director that
 2.28 the proposed program meets the requirements of subdivision 2.

2.29 (b) The commissioner must review all applications submitted ~~for fiscal year 2017 by~~
 2.30 ~~August 1, 2016, and must review all applications submitted for fiscal year 2018 and later~~
 2.31 by March 1 of the fiscal year in which the applications are received and determine whether
 2.32 each application meets the requirements of paragraph (a).

3.1 (c) The commissioner must divide all applications for new or expanded voluntary
3.2 prekindergarten programs under this section meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) and
3.3 school readiness plus programs into ~~four~~ five groups as follows: the Minneapolis ~~and school~~
3.4 district; the St. Paul school ~~districts~~ district; other school districts located in the metropolitan
3.5 equity region as defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; school districts located in the
3.6 rural equity region as defined in section 126C.10, subdivision 28; and charter schools.
3.7 Within each group, the applications must be ordered by rank using a sliding scale based on
3.8 the following criteria:

3.9 (1) concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches by
3.10 school site on October 1 of the previous school year. A school site may contract to partner
3.11 with a community-based provider or Head Start under subdivision 3 or establish an early
3.12 childhood center and use the concentration of kindergarten students eligible for free or
3.13 reduced-price meals from a specific school site as long as those eligible children are
3.14 prioritized and guaranteed services at the mixed-delivery site or early education center. For
3.15 school district programs to be operated at locations that do not have free and reduced-price
3.16 lunch concentration data for kindergarten programs for October 1 of the previous school
3.17 year, including mixed-delivery programs, the school district average concentration of
3.18 kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches must be used for the rank
3.19 ordering;

3.20 (2) presence or absence of a three- or four-star Parent Aware rated program within the
3.21 school district or close proximity of the district. School sites with the highest concentration
3.22 of kindergarten students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that do not have a three-
3.23 or four-star Parent Aware program within the district or close proximity of the district shall
3.24 receive the highest priority, and school sites with the lowest concentration of kindergarten
3.25 students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches that have a three- or four-star Parent
3.26 Aware rated program within the district or close proximity of the district shall receive the
3.27 lowest priority; and

3.28 (3) whether the district has implemented a mixed delivery system.

3.29 (d) The limit on participation for the programs as specified in subdivision 6 must initially
3.30 be allocated among the ~~four~~ five groups based on each group's percentage share of the
3.31 statewide kindergarten enrollment on October 1 of the previous school year. Within each
3.32 group, the participation limit for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 must first be allocated to school
3.33 sites approved for aid in the previous year to ensure that those sites are funded for the same
3.34 number of participants as approved for the previous year. The remainder of the participation
3.35 limit for each group must be allocated among school sites in priority order until that region's

4.1 share of the participation limit is reached. If the participation limit is not reached for all
 4.2 groups, the remaining amount must be allocated to the highest priority school sites, as
 4.3 designated under this section, not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis. For
 4.4 fiscal year 2020 and later, the participation limit must first be allocated to school sites
 4.5 approved for aid in fiscal year 2017, and then to school sites approved for aid in fiscal year
 4.6 2018 based on the statewide rankings under paragraph (c).

4.7 (e) Once a school site or a mixed delivery site under subdivision 3 is approved for aid
 4.8 under this subdivision, it shall remain eligible for aid if it continues to meet program
 4.9 requirements, regardless of changes in the concentration of students eligible for free or
 4.10 reduced-price lunches.

4.11 (f) If the total number of participants approved based on applications submitted under
 4.12 paragraph (a) is less than the participation limit under subdivision 6, the commissioner must
 4.13 notify all school districts and charter schools of the amount that remains available within
 4.14 30 days of the initial application deadline under paragraph (a), and complete a second round
 4.15 of allocations based on applications received within 60 days of the initial application deadline.

4.16 (g) Procedures for approving applications submitted under paragraph (f) shall be the
 4.17 same as specified in paragraphs (a) to (d), except that the allocations shall be made to the
 4.18 highest priority school sites not funded in the initial allocation on a statewide basis.

4.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.151, subdivision 6, is amended
 4.20 to read:

4.21 Subd. 6. **Participation limits.** (a) Notwithstanding section 126C.05, subdivision 1,
 4.22 paragraph (d), the pupil units for a voluntary prekindergarten program for an eligible school
 4.23 district or charter school must not exceed 60 percent of the kindergarten pupil units for that
 4.24 school district or charter school under section 126C.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

4.25 ~~(b) In reviewing applications under subdivision 5, the commissioner must limit the~~
 4.26 ~~estimated state aid entitlement approved under this section to \$27,092,000 for fiscal year~~
 4.27 ~~2017. If the actual state aid entitlement based on final data exceeds the limit in any year,~~
 4.28 ~~the aid of the participating districts must be prorated so as not to exceed the limit.~~

4.29 ~~(e)~~ (b) The commissioner must limit the total number of funded participants in the
 4.30 voluntary prekindergarten program under this section to not more than 3,160.

4.31 ~~(d)~~ (c) Notwithstanding paragraph ~~(e)~~ (b), the commissioner must limit the total number
 4.32 of participants in the voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus programs to not
 4.33 more than 6,160 participants for fiscal year 2018 and 7,160 participants for fiscal year 2019.

5.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 124D.162, is amended to read:

5.2 **124D.162 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT.**

5.3 Subdivision 1. **Purpose of assessment.** The purpose of kindergarten readiness assessment
 5.4 is to determine whether children are prepared to enter kindergarten, to understand the
 5.5 connection between kindergarten readiness and later academic achievement, and to produce
 5.6 data that can inform the effectiveness of early childhood programs.

5.7 Subd. 2. **Commissioner duties.** The commissioner of education ~~may~~ must implement
 5.8 a kindergarten readiness assessment representative of incoming kindergartners. The
 5.9 measurements used in the assessment must be valid and reliable and aligned to the state
 5.10 early childhood indicators of progress and kindergarten standards based on the Department
 5.11 of Education Kindergarten Readiness Assessment at kindergarten entrance study. The
 5.12 commissioner of education must provide districts with a process for measuring, on a
 5.13 comparable basis, the kindergarten readiness of incoming kindergartners. Districts that use
 5.14 the commissioner-provided process must annually report kindergarten readiness results
 5.15 under this section to the department in the form and manner determined by the commissioner.
 5.16 The commissioner must publicly report kindergarten readiness results as part of the
 5.17 performance reports required under section 120B.36 and consistent with section 120B.35,
 5.18 subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2).

5.19 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is amended
 5.20 to read:

5.21 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early learning scholarship,
 5.22 parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

5.23 (1) have an eligible child; and

5.24 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income in the
 5.25 current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in the free
 5.26 and reduced-price lunch program or Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School
 5.27 Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food Distribution
 5.28 Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States Code, title 7, sections
 5.29 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act
 5.30 of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J; child care assistance
 5.31 programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or placement
 5.32 in foster care under section 260C.212. Parents or guardians are not required to provide

6.1 income verification under this clause if the child is an eligible child under paragraph (b),
 6.2 clause (4) or (5).

6.3 (b) An "eligible child" means a child who has not yet enrolled in kindergarten and is:

6.4 (1) at least three but not yet five years of age on September 1 of the current school year;

6.5 (2) a sibling from birth to age five of a child who has been awarded a scholarship under
 6.6 this section provided the sibling attends the same program as long as funds are available;

6.7 (3) the child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course
 6.8 of study for a high school equivalency test; ~~or~~

6.9 ~~(4) homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.~~

6.10 (4) designated as a child in need of protection or services; or

6.11 (5) designated as homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
 6.12 Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

6.13 (c) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to receive
 6.14 a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section 120A.20
 6.15 and as long as funds are available.

6.16 (d) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the purposes
 6.17 of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L, Minnesota
 6.18 family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs under chapter
 6.19 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of
 6.20 2007.

6.21 (e) A child from an adjoining state whose family resides at a Minnesota address as
 6.22 assigned by the United States Postal Service, who has received developmental screening
 6.23 under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19, who intends to enroll in a Minnesota school district,
 6.24 and whose family meets the criteria of paragraph (a) is eligible for an early learning
 6.25 scholarship under this section.

6.26 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is amended
 6.27 to read:

6.28 Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application timelines
 6.29 and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational needs of eligible
 6.30 families and programs. The commissioner must give highest priority to applications from
 6.31 children who:

7.1 (1) have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or a course of
7.2 study for a high school equivalency test;

7.3 (2) are in foster care or otherwise in need of protection or services; or

7.4 (3) have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months, as defined under the federal
7.5 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

7.6 The commissioner may prioritize applications on additional factors including family
7.7 income, geographic location, and whether the child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly
7.8 funded program providing early education or child care services.

7.9 (b) The commissioner shall establish a target for the average scholarship amount per
7.10 child based on the results of the rate survey conducted under section 119B.02.

7.11 (c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in or
7.12 on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the
7.13 commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, each year of the
7.14 program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children than current funding
7.15 provides. The commissioner may designate a predetermined number of scholarship slots
7.16 for that program and notify the program of that number. For fiscal year 2018 and later, the
7.17 statewide amount of funding directly designated by the commissioner must not exceed the
7.18 funding directly designated for fiscal year 2017. Beginning July 1, 2016, a school district
7.19 or Head Start program qualifying under this paragraph may use its established registration
7.20 process to enroll scholarship recipients and may verify a scholarship recipient's family
7.21 income in the same manner as for other program participants.

7.22 (d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has not
7.23 been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ten months of the
7.24 awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in order
7.25 to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one scholarship
7.26 in a 12-month period.

7.27 (e) A child over the age of three who receives a scholarship ~~who~~ and has not completed
7.28 development screening under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening
7.29 within 90 days of first attending an eligible program. A child who receives a scholarship
7.30 before the age of three must complete the developmental screening no later than 90 days
7.31 after the child's third birthday.

7.32 (f) For fiscal year 2017 and later, a school district or Head Start program enrolling
7.33 scholarship recipients under paragraph (c) may apply to the commissioner, in the form and

8.1 manner prescribed by the commissioner, for direct payment of state aid. Upon receipt of
 8.2 the application, the commissioner must pay each program directly for each approved
 8.3 scholarship recipient enrolled under paragraph (c) according to the metered payment system
 8.4 or another schedule established by the commissioner.

8.5 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is amended
 8.6 to read:

8.7 Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept an
 8.8 early learning scholarship, a program must:

8.9 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section 124D.142;
 8.10 and

8.11 (2) beginning July 1, 2020, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating and
 8.12 improvement system.

8.13 (b) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not
 8.14 supplant federal funding.

8.15 ~~(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), all Minnesota early learning foundation scholarship~~
 8.16 ~~program pilot sites are eligible to accept an early learning scholarship under this section.~~

8.17 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.549, is amended to read:

8.18 **124D.549 COMMISSIONER-SELECTED HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**
 8.19 **TEST TESTS.**

8.20 The commissioner, in consultation with adult basic education stakeholders, must select
 8.21 a at least one high school equivalency test. The commissioner may issue a high school
 8.22 equivalency diploma to a Minnesota resident 19 years of age or older who has not earned
 8.23 a high school diploma, who has not previously been issued a ~~general education development~~
 8.24 ~~(GED) certification~~ high school equivalency diploma, and who has exceeded or achieved
 8.25 a minimum passing score on ~~the~~ an approved equivalency test established by the publisher.
 8.26 The commissioner of education may waive the minimum age requirement if supportive
 8.27 evidence is provided by an employer or a recognized education or rehabilitation provider.

8.28 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.99, subdivision 3, is amended
 8.29 to read:

8.30 Subd. 3. **Administration; design.** (a) The commissioner shall establish program
 8.31 requirements, an application process and timeline for each tier of grants specified in

9.1 subdivision 4, criteria for evaluation of applications, and a grant awards process. The
9.2 commissioner's process must minimize administrative costs, minimize burdens for applicants
9.3 and grant recipients, and provide a framework that permits flexibility in program design
9.4 and implementation among grant recipients.

9.5 (b) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall design the program to align with
9.6 programs implemented or proposed by organizations in Minnesota that:

9.7 (1) identify and increase the capacity of organizations that are focused on achieving
9.8 data-driven, locally controlled positive outcomes for children and youth throughout an entire
9.9 neighborhood or geographic area through programs such as Strive Together, Promise
9.10 Neighborhood, and the Education Partnerships Coalition members;

9.11 (2) build a continuum of educational family and community supports with academically
9.12 rigorous schools at the center;

9.13 (3) maximize program efficiencies by integrating programmatic activities and eliminating
9.14 administrative barriers;

9.15 (4) develop local infrastructure needed to sustain and scale up proven and effective
9.16 solutions beyond the initial neighborhood or geographic area; ~~and~~

9.17 (5) utilize appropriate outcome measures based on unique community needs and interests
9.18 and apply rigorous evaluation on a periodic basis to be used to both monitor outcomes and
9.19 allow for continuous improvements to systems;

9.20 (6) collect and utilize data to improve student outcomes;

9.21 (7) share disaggregated performance data with the community to set community-level
9.22 outcomes;

9.23 (8) employ continuous improvement processes;

9.24 (9) have an anchor entity to manage the partnership;

9.25 (10) convene a cross-sector leadership group and have a documented accountability
9.26 structure; and

9.27 (11) demonstrate use of nonstate funds, from multiple sources, including in-kind
9.28 contributions.

9.29 (c) A grant recipient's supportive services programming must address:

9.30 (1) kindergarten readiness and youth development;

9.31 (2) grade 3 reading proficiency;

- 10.1 (3) middle school mathematics;
- 10.2 ~~(3)~~ (4) high school graduation;
- 10.3 ~~(4)~~ (5) postsecondary educational attainment enrollment;
- 10.4 (6) postsecondary education completion;
- 10.5 ~~(5)~~ (7) physical and mental health;
- 10.6 ~~(6)~~ (8) development of career skills and readiness;
- 10.7 ~~(7)~~ (9) parental engagement and development;
- 10.8 ~~(8)~~ (10) community engagement and programmatic alignment; and
- 10.9 ~~(9)~~ (11) reduction of remedial education.
- 10.10 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with grant recipients, must:
- 10.11 (1) develop and revise core indicators of progress toward outcomes specifying impacts
- 10.12 for each tier identified under subdivision 4;
- 10.13 (2) establish a reporting system for grant recipients to measure program outcomes using
- 10.14 data sources and program goals; and
- 10.15 (3) evaluate effectiveness based on the core indicators established by each partnership
- 10.16 for each tier.

10.17 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 124D.99, subdivision 5, is amended

10.18 to read:

10.19 Subd. 5. **Grants.** (a) The commissioner shall award Tier 1 and Tier 2 grants to qualifying

10.20 recipients that can demonstrate a nonstate source of funds, including in-kind contributions.

10.21 (b) For Tier 2 grants authorized for fiscal year 2020 and later, the commissioner must

10.22 give priority to otherwise qualified past grant recipients that have made progress toward

10.23 identified program outcomes under subdivision 3, paragraph (d).

10.24 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 136A.246, subdivision 4, is amended

10.25 to read:

10.26 Subd. 4. **Application.** Applications must be made to the commissioner on a form provided

10.27 by the commissioner. The commissioner must, to the extent possible, make the application

10.28 form as short and simple to complete as is reasonably possible. The commissioner shall

11.1 establish a schedule for applications and grants. The application must include, without
11.2 limitation:

11.3 (1) the projected number of employee trainees;

11.4 (2) the number of projected employee trainees who graduated from high school or passed
11.5 ~~the~~ a commissioner of education-selected high school equivalency test in the current or
11.6 immediately preceding calendar year;

11.7 (3) the competency standard for which training will be provided;

11.8 (4) the credential the employee will receive upon completion of training;

11.9 (5) the name and address of the training institution or program and a signed statement
11.10 by the institution or program that it is able and agrees to provide the training;

11.11 (6) the period of the training; and

11.12 (7) the cost of the training charged by the training institution or program and certified
11.13 by the institution or program. The cost of training includes tuition, fees, and required books
11.14 and materials.

11.15 An application may be made for training of employees of multiple employers either by
11.16 the employers or by an organization on their behalf.

11.17 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2017 Supplement, section 155A.30, subdivision 12, is amended
11.18 to read:

11.19 Subd. 12. **Minnesota state authorization.** A cosmetology school licensed or applying
11.20 for licensure under this section shall maintain recognition as an institution of postsecondary
11.21 study by meeting the following conditions, in addition to the provisions of Minnesota Rules,
11.22 ~~parts~~ part 2110.0310 ~~and 2110.0370~~:

11.23 (1) the school must admit as regular students only those individuals who have a high
11.24 school diploma or a diploma based on passing a commissioner of education-selected high
11.25 school equivalency ~~tests or their equivalent test~~, or who are beyond the age of compulsory
11.26 education as prescribed by section 120A.22; and

11.27 (2) the school must be licensed by name and authorized by the Office of Higher Education
11.28 and the board to offer one or more training programs beyond the secondary level.

12.1 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 245C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision
12.2 to read:

12.3 Subd. 5a. **National criminal history record check.** (a) "National criminal history record
12.4 check" means a check of records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through
12.5 submission of fingerprints through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to the
12.6 Federal Bureau of Investigation when specifically required by law.

12.7 (b) For purposes of this chapter, "national crime information database," "national criminal
12.8 records repository," "criminal history with the Federal Bureau of Investigation," and "national
12.9 criminal record check" mean a national criminal history record check defined in paragraph
12.10 (a).

12.11 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 245C.12, is amended to read:

12.12 **245C.12 BACKGROUND STUDY; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

12.13 (a) For the purposes of background studies completed by tribal organizations performing
12.14 licensing activities otherwise required of the commissioner under this chapter, after obtaining
12.15 consent from the background study subject, tribal licensing agencies shall have access to
12.16 criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies and private licensing
12.17 agencies under this chapter.

12.18 (b) Tribal organizations may contract with the commissioner to obtain background study
12.19 data on individuals under tribal jurisdiction related to adoptions according to section 245C.34.
12.20 Tribal organizations may also contract with the commissioner to obtain background study
12.21 data on individuals under tribal jurisdiction related to child foster care according to section
12.22 245C.34.

12.23 (c) For the purposes of background studies completed to comply with a tribal
12.24 organization's licensing requirements for individuals affiliated with a tribally licensed nursing
12.25 facility, the commissioner shall obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal
12.26 Records Repository in accordance with section 245C.32.

12.27 (d) Tribal organizations may contract with the commissioner to conduct background
12.28 studies or obtain background study data on individuals affiliated with a child care program
12.29 sponsored, managed, or licensed by a tribal organization. Studies conducted under this
12.30 paragraph require the commissioner to conduct a national criminal history record check as
12.31 defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 5a. Any tribally affiliated child care program that
12.32 does not contract with the commissioner to conduct background studies is exempt from the
12.33 relevant requirements in this chapter. A study conducted under this paragraph must include

13.1 all components of studies for certified license-exempt child care centers under this chapter
 13.2 to be transferable to other child care entities.

13.3 **Sec. 15. [245C.121] BACKGROUND STUDY; HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

13.4 Head Start programs that receive funding disbursed under section 119A.52 may contract
 13.5 with the commissioner to conduct background studies and obtain background study data
 13.6 on individuals affiliated with a Head Start program. Studies conducted under this paragraph
 13.7 require the commissioner to conduct a national criminal history record check as defined in
 13.8 section 245C.02, subdivision 5a. Any Head Start program site that does not contract with
 13.9 the commissioner, is not licensed, and is not registered to receive funding under chapter
 13.10 119B is exempt from the relevant requirements in this chapter. Nothing in this paragraph
 13.11 supersedes requirements for background studies in this chapter, chapter 119B, or child care
 13.12 centers under chapter 245H that are related to licensed child care programs or programs
 13.13 registered to receive funding under chapter 119B. A study conducted under this paragraph
 13.14 must include all components of studies for certified license-exempt child care centers under
 13.15 this chapter to be transferable to other child care entities.

13.16 Sec. 16. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 8, section 9, subdivision 2, is
 13.17 amended to read:

13.18 Subd. 2. **Program requirements.** A school readiness plus program provider must:

13.19 (1) assess each child's cognitive and language skills with an age-appropriate
 13.20 comprehensive child assessment instrument when the child enters and again before the child
 13.21 leaves the program to improve program planning and implementation, communicate with
 13.22 parents, and promote kindergarten readiness;

13.23 (2) provide comprehensive program content and intentional instructional practice aligned
 13.24 with the state early childhood learning guidelines and kindergarten standards and based on
 13.25 early childhood research and professional practice that is focused on children's cognitive,
 13.26 social, emotional, and physical skills and development and prepares children for the transition
 13.27 to kindergarten, including early literacy and language skills;

13.28 (3) coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with parents and kindergarten teachers;

13.29 (4) involve parents in program planning and decision making;

13.30 (5) coordinate with relevant community-based services;

13.31 (6) cooperate with adult basic education programs and other adult literacy programs;

14.1 (7) ensure staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and a maximum group size of 20 children
 14.2 with at least one ~~licensed~~ teacher;

14.3 (8) have teachers knowledgeable in early childhood curriculum content, assessment,
 14.4 native and English language development programs, and instruction; and

14.5 (9) provide instructional content and activities that are of sufficient length and intensity
 14.6 to address learning needs including offering a program with at least 350 hours of instruction
 14.7 per school year.

14.8 A teacher in a school readiness plus program must meet the criteria of a school readiness
 14.9 teacher under section 124D.15 or the criteria for a voluntary prekindergarten teacher under
 14.10 section 124D.151.

14.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2017.

14.12 Sec. 17. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 5, article 9, section 2, subdivision 7, is
 14.13 amended to read:

14.14 Subd. 7. **Tier 2 implementing grants.** (a) For Tier 2 implementing grants under
 14.15 Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.99:

14.16 \$ 480,000 2018

14.17 ~~480,000~~

14.18 \$ 553,000 2019

14.19 (b) For fiscal years 2018 and 2019 only, \$160,000 each year is for the Northfield Healthy
 14.20 Community Initiative in Northfield; \$160,000 is for the Jones Family Foundation for the
 14.21 Every Hand Joined program in Red Wing; and \$160,000 is for the United Way of Central
 14.22 Minnesota for the Partners for Student Success program.

14.23 (c) For fiscal year 2019 only, \$73,000 is for the United Way of Central Minnesota for
 14.24 the Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota.

14.25 (d) The base funding for Tier 2 implementing grants is \$480,000. The commissioner
 14.26 must competitively award all grants under this subdivision for fiscal year 2020 and later,
 14.27 according to the criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.99, subdivision 3.

14.28 ~~(d)~~ (e) Any balance in the first year does not cancel but is available in the second year.