

Lyndon Carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

HOUSE DFL CAUCUS ANNOUNCES EDUCATION PLAN



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**Check out these weekly
publications to keep track of
what's going on at the State
Capitol:**

House of Representatives:

Session Weekly:

[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/
hinfo/swmain.asp](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swmain.asp)

State Senate:

Senate Briefly:

www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/briefly/

This week, I joined my Democratic colleagues in announcing our Education Plan. Parents and students joined the announcement and held signs calling for “strong schools” and “honest solutions.”

Our plan would provide \$843 million total in new education spending, without the property tax increases and heavy reliance on shifts found in the Republican Omnibus Education Finance Bill.

Our bill is the only proposal out there that will stop the cuts to our classrooms, teacher lay-offs and increasing class sizes.

We provide for strong schools by increasing per pupil funding by 5% in each of the next two years. The plan also includes an additional 5% for special education in the second year of the biennium, dedicate funding for gifted and talented programs, and funding for voluntary all-day kindergarten.

This year, I have chief authored bills to increase funding for education by 5% in each year and fund voluntary all-day kindergarten. I am pleased that these positive measures for our schools have been incorporated into our DFL plan, which will set the state on a course to ensure success for all students.

DISTRICT REVENUE INCREASES UNDER DFL EDUCATION PLAN

DISTRICT	BIENNIAL INCREASE OVER BASE	BIENNIAL INCREASE OVER GOP
281 Robbinsdale	\$15.398 million (\$994 per pupil)	\$5.253 million (\$341 per pupil)
270 Hopkins	\$8.841 million (\$962 per pupil)	\$2.212 million (\$241 per pupil)

HOUSE PASSES PUBLIC SAFETY BILL

On Thursday, the House passed the Omnibus Public Safety Bill with my support. The bill provides operating funds for our courts, corrections and public safety.

The bill toughens sentences and monitoring of dangerous sex offenders, provides funding for judicial and enforcement functions associated with methamphetamine related crimes and adds an additional \$532,000 each year in Crime Services Grants.

CARLSON SAYS 'NO' TO BILL THAT COULD MOVE MINNESOTANS FROM WORK TO WELFARE

On Friday, the House passed the Omnibus Jobs Policy and Finance Bill. I had great concerns about the impact on working families that this bill will likely have, and therefore, I voted against this bill.

Cuts to childcare assistance in the bill total \$69.8 million, or

30% of the investment that the state makes in providing affordable childcare for working families. This is following cuts in the last biennium that eliminated childcare assistance for 10,000 Minnesota children. Providing access to affordable childcare increases the opportunity for success for working families. That is why I could not support cuts that would cause thousands of additional families to lose care.

The bill included cuts to the MN Housing Finance Agency of \$12.5 million, putting stable housing out of the reach of some struggling families.

The bill also eliminates the very successful Minnesota Youth Program, YouthBuild Program and Learn-to-Earn program. These programs serve 4,400 economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth by helping them obtain work skills to help them be successful in the labor market. The bill eliminates these programs regardless of demand - there is currently a waiting list of 10,500 young people seeking to participate.

JOIN REP. CARLSON AT THE NEXT SD 45 TOWN HALL MEETING

I would like to invite all of you to join your SD 45 team - Sen. Ann Rest, Rep. Sandra Peterson and me - at our next Town Hall Meeting. We look forward to hearing your comments on the state budget and other issues of state government and will be prepared to answer constituent questions.

May 7th, 2005

**Crystal City Hall
4141 Douglas Dr. N**

at 10:00 AM