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planning for high school and postsecondary education, an interest inventory, needs assessments, and student education plans. Indicates that the achievement tests are linked to the ACT assessment for college admission and allow a student's college readiness to be assessed before grades 11 and 12.

(b) Directs the education commissioner to provide ACT Explore tests to eighth graders and ACT Plan tests to tenth graders to assess their strengths, weaknesses, achievements, progress, skills, and college readiness. Requires the state to pay test costs. Directs the commissioner to establish application and payment processes.

3 Program structure; training programs for teachers. (b) Allows district teachers assigned to teach advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses to participate in related training programs. Allows the state to pay a portion of out-of-state travel costs, among other costs, for teachers participating in a training program. Directs the education commissioner to determine the payment process and subsidy amount.

4 Subsidy for examination fees. Directs the education commissioner to pay all advanced placement and international baccalaureate exam fees for all low income public and nonpublic school students, and to the extent funds are available, also to pay the exam fees of other students.

5 College credit. Requires MNSCU and encourages the University of Minnesota and private postsecondary institutions to award college credit to high school students who receive a score of three or higher on advanced placement or four or higher on international baccalaureate exams.

6 College-level examination program (CLEP).

Subd. 1. Program structure. Requires schools to provide information on the college-level examination program (CLEP) and students' opportunity to receive college credit for successfully completing college-level courses.

Subd. 2. Reimbursement for examination fees. Allows the state to reimburse public school students who successfully complete college-level courses and earn a satisfactory score in one or more specified subjects. Permits students to be reimbursed for up to six exam fees. Directs the education commissioner to establish application and reimbursement processes, giving priority to reimbursing low-income students.

Subd. 3. College credit. Requires MNSCU and encourages the University of Minnesota and private postsecondary institutions to award college credit to high school students who receive a satisfactory score on a CLEP exam. Directs the commissioner, in consultation with MNSCU, to set a passing score for college credits.

7 Statewide testing. (a) Makes the state's basic skills testing requirements applicable to students enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year and requires students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year and later to pass the MCA-II's in reading, math and writing to fulfill academic standard requirements.

8 Statewide and local assessments; results. (c) Makes technical changes to conform to No Child Left Behind assessment requirements.

9 Eligible services. Provides assurance of mastery program instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 who were enrolled in grade 8 before the 2005-2006 school year and failed the

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basic skills tests or were enrolled in grade 8 in the 2005-2006 school year or later and failed the MCA-II's in reading, math, or writing.

10 Minnesota comprehensive assessments; rules. Directs the education commissioner by January 1, 2005, to adopt rules for implementing the second edition of the Minnesota comprehensive assessments in reading, math, and writing that include criteria and an alternative assessment process for students who do not receive a passing score on the assessments.

11 Appropriations.

Subd. 1. Department. Appropriates specified general fund sums to the education department in the fiscal years designated.

Subd. 2. Education planning and assessment program. Appropriates for the program \$829,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$829,000 in fiscal year 2007.

Subd. 3. College level examination program. Appropriates for the program \$825,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$1,650,000 in fiscal year 2007.