

133.22 **ARTICLE 6**133.23 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND**
133.24 **LIFELONG LEARNING**

133.25 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 123A.06, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

133.26 Subd. 2. **People to be served.** A state-approved alternative program shall provide
133.27 programs for secondary pupils ~~and adults~~. A center may also provide programs and
133.28 services for elementary and secondary pupils who are not attending the state-approved
133.29 alternative program to assist them in being successful in school. A center shall use
133.30 research-based best practices for serving English learners and their parents. An
133.31 individualized education program team may identify a state-approved alternative program
133.32 as an appropriate placement to the extent a state-approved alternative program can provide
133.33 the student with the appropriate special education services described in the student's plan.
133.34 Pupils eligible to be served are those who qualify under the graduation incentives program
134.1 in section 124D.68, subdivision 2, those enrolled under section 124D.02, subdivision
134.2 2, or those pupils who are eligible to receive special education services under sections
134.3 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65.

134.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is
134.5 amended to read:

134.6 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early ~~childhood education~~
134.7 learning scholarship, parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

134.8 (1) have a child three or four years of age on September 1 of the current school year,
134.9 who has not yet started kindergarten; and

134.10 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income
134.11 in the current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in
134.12 the free and reduced-price lunch program or child and adult care food program, National
134.13 School Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food
134.14 Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States
134.15 Code, title 7, sections 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for
134.16 School Readiness Act of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J;
134.17 child care assistance programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance
134.18 program; or placement in foster care under section 260C.212.

134.19 (b) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, a parent under age 21 who
134.20 is pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma is eligible for an early
134.21 learning scholarship if the parent has a child age zero to five years old and meets the
134.22 income eligibility guidelines in this subdivision.

134.23 (c) Any siblings between the ages zero to five years old of a child who has been
134.24 awarded a scholarship under this section must be awarded a scholarship upon request,
134.25 provided the sibling attends the same program.

51.1 **ARTICLE 5**51.2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND**
51.3 **LIFELONG LEARNING**

51.4 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 123A.06, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

51.5 Subd. 2. **People to be served.** A state-approved alternative program shall provide
51.6 programs for secondary pupils ~~and adults~~. A center may also provide programs and
51.7 services for elementary and secondary pupils who are not attending the state-approved
51.8 alternative program to assist them in being successful in school. A center shall use
51.9 research-based best practices for serving English learners and their parents. An
51.10 individualized education program team may identify a state-approved alternative program
51.11 as an appropriate placement to the extent a state-approved alternative program can provide
51.12 the student with the appropriate special education services described in the student's plan.
51.13 Pupils eligible to be served are those who qualify under the graduation incentives program
51.14 in section 124D.68, subdivision 2, those enrolled under section 124D.02, subdivision
51.15 2, or those pupils who are eligible to receive special education services under sections
51.16 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65.

51.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 2, is
51.18 amended to read:

51.19 Subd. 2. **Family eligibility.** (a) For a family to receive an early ~~childhood education~~
51.20 learning scholarship, parents or guardians must meet the following eligibility requirements:

51.21 (1) have a child three or four years of age on September 1 of the current school year,
51.22 who has not yet started kindergarten; and

51.23 (2) have income equal to or less than 185 percent of federal poverty level income
51.24 in the current calendar year, or be able to document their child's current participation in
51.25 the free and reduced-price lunch program or child and adult care food program, National
51.26 School Lunch Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 1751 and 1766; the Food
51.27 Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Food and Nutrition Act, United States
51.28 Code, title 7, sections 2011-2036; Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for
51.29 School Readiness Act of 2007; Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J;
51.30 child care assistance programs under chapter 119B; the supplemental nutrition assistance
51.31 program; or placement in foster care under section 260C.212.

51.32 (b) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, a parent under age 21 who
51.33 is pursuing a high school or general education equivalency diploma is eligible for an early
52.1 learning scholarship if the parent has a child age zero to five years old and meets the
52.2 income eligibility guidelines in this subdivision.

52.3 (c) Any siblings between the ages zero to five years old of a child who has been
52.4 awarded a scholarship under this section must be awarded a scholarship upon request,
52.5 provided the sibling attends the same program as long as funds are available.

134.26 (d) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to receive
134.27 a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section 120A.20.

134.28 (e) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the
134.29 purposes of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L,
134.30 Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs
134.31 under chapter 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School
134.32 Readiness Act of 2007.

134.33 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is
134.34 amended to read:

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

135.3 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section
135.4 124D.142; and

135.5 (2) beginning July 1, 2016, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating
135.6 and improvement system.

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

52.6 (d) A child who has received a scholarship under this section must continue to
52.7 receive a scholarship each year until that child is eligible for kindergarten under section
52.8 120A.20 and as long as funds are available.

52.9 (e) Early learning scholarships may not be counted as earned income for the
52.10 purposes of medical assistance under chapter 256B, MinnesotaCare under chapter 256L,
52.11 Minnesota family investment program under chapter 256J, child care assistance programs
52.12 under chapter 119B, or Head Start under the federal Improving Head Start for School
52.13 Readiness Act of 2007.

52.14 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is
52.15 amended to read:

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

52.18 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section
52.19 124D.142; and

52.20 (2) beginning July 1, 2016, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating
52.21 and improvement system.

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

52.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 5, is
52.25 amended to read:

52.26 Subd. 5. **Report required.** The commissioner shall contract with an independent
52.27 contractor to evaluate the early learning scholarship program. The evaluation must
52.28 include recommendations regarding the appropriate scholarship amount, efficiency, and
52.29 effectiveness of the administration, and impact on kindergarten readiness and student
52.30 outcomes by program setting, including Head Start programs, school-based prekindergarten
52.31 and preschool programs, and other early education and child care programs. The report
52.32 must also include the number of scholarship recipients in school-based, home-based,
52.33 and center-based programs as well as a geographic summary of scholarship recipients
52.34 by county. By January 15, 2016, the commissioner shall submit a written copy of the
53.1 evaluation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and
53.2 divisions with primary jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education.