

5/16/2022 3:28 PM

Chair Chamberlain & Legislative Leaders,

The offer from the Senate dated 5/11/2022 at 5:05 PM was an insufficient response to meeting the well-documented mental health, well-being, and academic needs of students in Minnesota. The joint budget framework we were given more than twenty-four hours ago allocates \$320 million in FY23, \$680 million in FY 24/25, totaling \$1 billion out of the budget surplus which provides us an opportunity to go beyond one-time investments.

The House has structured an offer which takes into account the pressing mental health and well-being needs of students, as well as the academic needs of those who have experienced delayed learning. It addresses the significant cost-drivers school districts face as they attempt to deliver services to special education students and English language learners, and the lasting investments needed in voluntary pre-kindergarten and early learning scholarships.

Carried in HF 4300-4 and SF 3114 are training provisions for teachers to deliver effective reading instruction through investments in LETRS and the Network for the Advancement of Children of African Descent. The House will continue to advocate for training and support for teachers to deliver comprehensive individualized academic, social and emotional learning for students in the form of a multi-tiered systems of support, investments in student support personnel and paraprofessional training. The House continues our shared commitment to investing in the recruitment and retention of teachers of color with a goal of creating more welcoming and inclusive learning environments for students. The innovative mental health grants for Level 4 programs are also a key investment in our most vulnerable students across the state.

The House offer also contains necessary policy provisions that support these investments in ensuring children have access to the educational tools they need to succeed.

We look forward to a robust offer from the Senate that contains more of the provisions in HF 4300-4 and SF 3114. Time is short and we are not a point for further delays and would appreciate an expeditious response.

Chair Davnie