Overview

Expands the learning academy training program to include school media and information technology professionals and courses on new technology, modifies eligibility requirements for library site technology grants, modifies the database access program for public libraries and school media centers, and appropriates money.

1 Learning academy.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Makes training opportunities through the Minnesota learning academy available to school media and information technology professionals.

Subd. 2. Development of the learning academy. Includes identifying and establishing outcomes for training courses on new and emerging technologies taught to school media and information technology professionals among the list of tasks assigned to the commissioner in developing the learning academy.

2 Application; eligibility. Requires applicants for library site technology grants to describe how the proposed project meets existing Minnesota technical standards appropriate to the project. Conditions a library site's eligibility, in part, on being a publicly funded or nonprofit library in partnership with school libraries, public libraries or public library systems and a member of a regional multicounty, multitype library cooperation system.

3 Database access program for public libraries and school media centers.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning and the director of the higher education services office to establish a program to provide statewide licenses to commercial electronic databases of various reference materials to state government agency libraries, and public or private college or university libraries, among others. Includes
librarians on the panel to review proposals for access licenses to commercial vendors of databases.

**Subd. 2. Eligibility.** Makes access to selected databases available to a school media center or library that is eligible to participate in MnLink. Grants a school media center or library that is eligible to participate in MnLink access to databases from a remote site.

**Subd. 3. Resource grants.** Strikes language making graduation rule resource grants available.

**4 Appropriations.**

**Subd. 1. Department of children, families and learning.** Appropriates the indicated sums from the general fund to the department of children, families and learning in the designated fiscal years.

**Subd. 2. Library site technology grant program.** Appropriates $3,500,000 in fiscal year 2000 and $3,500,000 in fiscal year 2001 for library site technology grants. Allows the department to use up to 2.5 percent of the appropriation for administrative costs.

**Subd. 3. Database access program.** Appropriates $1,474,000 in fiscal year 2000 and $1,474,000 in fiscal year 2001 for the database access program for public libraries and school media centers.

**Subd. 4. Learning academy.** Appropriates $5,000,000 in fiscal year 2000 and $5,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 for training and staff development at the learning academy. Makes $200,000 in fiscal year 2000 and $100,000 in fiscal year 2001 available for training public library workers.