Establishes a teacher preparation and licensure program that requires Inver Hills community college and the Minneapolis community and technical college to offer the first two years of the program and Metropolitan state university to offer the final two years of the program. Focuses the program on preparing teachers to the needs of urban and inner ring suburban schools and emphasizes classroom teaching experience and mentoring. Encourages urban and inner ring suburban schools to provide teacher mentoring for program candidates.

1 Program created. Directs the MNSCU board of trustees to offer a teacher preparation and licensure program that requires Inver Hills community college and the Minneapolis community and technical college to offer the first two years of the program and Metropolitan state university to offer the final two years of the program. Directs Inver Hills community college and the Minneapolis community and technical college to offer a pre-education program in fall semester 2000. Directs Metropolitan state university to begin its licensure program in fall semester 2001 after developing the program in fiscal year 2001. Requires the program to focus on preparing teachers to the needs of urban and inner ring suburban schools and emphasize candidates' classroom teaching experience and mentoring. Encourages the participating institutions to enter into partnerships with urban and inner ring suburban schools to provide teacher mentoring for program candidates.

2 Report required. Directs the MNSCU board of trustees by February 15, 2002, to provide a progress report to the legislature that describes, among other things, how well the program meets the needs of teacher candidates and how well the teacher candidates are performing at the cooperating schools.

3 Appropriation. Appropriates $1,500,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2001 to the MNSCU board of trustees for developing and implementing the program under section 1.