

Subject Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness Plus

Authors Bernardy and others

Analyst Matt Burress (matt.burress@house.mn)

Date March 11, 2019

Overview

This bill modifies the Voluntary PreKindergarten/School Readiness Plus programs, to:

- make the School Readiness Plus program ongoing;
- retain the same number of funded the Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK)/School Readiness Plus program slots in fiscal year 2020 and after as the fiscal year 2019 level (of 7,160 participants), which prevents a return to the fiscal year 2017 level of 3,160 participants;
- split the VPK application the Minneapolis and St. Paul school district region into two separate regions; and
- make technical changes.

The state aid cost of this change is estimated at \$27.55 million for fiscal year 2020 and \$30.97 million for fiscal year 2021.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Application process; priority for high poverty schools. Splits the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts into two separate regions for allocating voluntary prekindergarten funds (this split does not affect any funding for the other three regions). Makes technical changes, to remove obsolete language
2	Participation limits. Sets the combined count of VPK and School Readiness Plus participants at 7,160 annually on an ongoing basis. Under the 2018-19 budget, the count was increased from 3,160 only for the biennium (to be 6,160 in fiscal year 2018 and 7,160 in fiscal year 2019). Under current law, the number of funded participants is set to return to 3,160 participants starting in fiscal year 2020.
3	Pupil unit. Removes the sunset on the formula for calculating pupils under the School Readiness Plus program.

Section	Description
4	Effective date. Makes a conforming change.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155