ALL DAY K – EARLY LEARNING

Commissioner's Working Group on School Funding
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Tom Melcher
Program Finance Division

MDE FUNDING REFORM PROPOSAL Includes the following:

1. Investing in early learning, with resources targeted first to all-day kindergarten for students living in poverty.

    - All-Day Kindergarten
    - Early Childhood Quality Rating & Improvement System

All-Day Kindergarten

Governor's budget includes the following recommendation:

- Beginning in FY 2013, provide all-day K funding for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches who participate in a free all-day K program open to all kindergarteners at their school.
- Participation in the program would be optional.
- School districts and charter schools could choose to provide this option at one or more school sites.
- Aid would equal the product of the average daily membership of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches participating in the program times the general education formula allowance times 0.388 (the difference between a 1.0 pupil unit weight and the current 0.612 pupil unit for kindergarten students).
- The balance of program costs not funded through all day kindergarten aid would be funded using other non-fee resources from the school district or charter school's general fund.
- State aid cost is $32 million in FY 2013, $49 million in FY 2014 and $52 million in FY 2015.

All-Day Kindergarten

Other Options Considered:

1. Free All-Day K for All Students with 1.115 Weight (Same as Grades 1 – 3)
   - Cost would be about $114 Million in FY 2013 (assuming 70-30 payment schedule) and $163 Million in later years.
2. Free All-Day K for All Students with 1.0 Weight
   - Cost would be about $ 89 Million in FY 2013 (assuming 70-30 payment schedule) and $128 Million in later years.
3. Fee-Based All Day K with Fees Waived for Students Eligible for Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program and state aid with 1.0 weight for students with fees waived
   - Cost would we somewhat higher than in Governor's proposal due to higher participation (about $ 40 Million in FY 2013 (assuming 70-30 payment schedule) and $58 Million in later years)
   - Would require change in fee law to allow fees for all-day K programs
   - This would erode Minnesota's commitment to providing a free public education for all students

Fee Law

MS 123B.35. General Policy.

" It is the policy of the state of Minnesota that public school education shall be free and no pupil shall be denied an education because of economic inability……"

MS 123B.37. Prohibited Fees.

"A board is not authorized to charge fees in the following areas:

(1) textbooks, workbooks, art materials, laboratory supplies, towels;

(2) supplies necessary for participation in any instructional course except as authorized in sections 123B.36 and 123B.38;……

(5) instructional costs for necessary school personnel employed in any course or educational program required for graduation;

MDE Interpretation of Fee Law

- Kindergarten is an instructional program, and an essential part of the overall K-12 program of instruction leading to graduation.
- Therefore, fees cannot be charged for all-day kindergarten programs.

Some districts have skirted this Statute by offering a free half-day K program supplemented with a fee-based half day school age care program operated through the community education fund that has some or all of the components of an all-day K program.

FY 2010 Kindergarten Schedules

	7 County Metro		Non-Metro		State Totals	
Half Day Daily	11,695	39%	5,658	21%	17,353	31%
Full Day Alternate Day	790	3%	4,288	16%	5,078	9%
Full Day 3 days/wk	257	1%	420	2%	677	1%
Subtotal Part Time	12,742	43%	10,366	39%	23,108	41%
Full Day Daily	10,747	36%	12,384	46%	23,131	41%
Full Day Title 1	707	2%	1,030	4%	1,737	3%
Subtotal Free All Day Daily	11,454	38%	13,414	50%	24,868	44%
Full Day Daily Parent Fee	5,653	19%	3,136	12%	8,789	15%
Total	29,849	100%	26,916	100%	56,765	100%

All Day K – Governor's Recommendation

Minnesota Department of Education

Current kindergarten weight			0.612							
Proposed weight for kindergarten poverty			1.000							
Proposed increase in weight for kindergarten pove			0.388							
Formula allowance			5,124.00							
Increase for qualifying student = (3) x (4) =			1,988.11							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
					Aid at		Est $	Net Paid by	$ Currently	Additional
			Current		Full		Currently	District at Full	Used for	$ from General
	FY 2013	FY 2013	Full Day	Kgn Enroll	Participation	Full Cost	Paid by	Participation	All-Day K	Fund Needed to
	Regular	Poverty	Free	in Poverty	= D x	= A x	District	After Aid	Freed Up for	Fully Implement
	Kindergarten	Portion	Portion	= A x B	1,988.11	1,988.11	= C x F	= F-E	Oth Programs	Free All-Day K
Total	59,743	42%	45%	25,014	49,731,081	118,776,332	53,824,178	69,045,251	27,780,498	43,001,572
MPLS & ST PAUL	6,113	74%	94%	4,513	8,972,619	12,154,271	11,384,335	3,181,652	8,202,683	0
OTHER METRO, INNER	6,036	37%	19%	2,309	4,589,850	12,001,067	4,937,152	7,411,217	2,182,510	4,656,575
OTHER METRO, OUTER	18,159	27%	44%	4,877	9,695,555	36,101,652	4,008,169	26,406,097	509,041	22,906,969
NONMET>=2K	13,319	41%	62%	5,361	10,657,343	26,479,677	10,954,139	15,822,334	4,771,099	9,639,294
NONMET 1K-2K	6,455	42%	76%	2,785	5,536,509	12,832,495	8,289,478	7,295,986	3,854,608	2,861,116
NONMET < 1K	6,169	48%	81%	2,977	5,919,359	12,264,173	9,744,794	6,344,815	4,733,451	1,333,471
CHARTERS	3,326	64%	65%	2,128	4,231,016	6,613,289	4,291,992	2,382,273	3,405,394	1,495,675
COOPS	166	35%	65%	65	128,830	329,708	214,119	200,879	121,712	108,471

1. Investing in Early Learning: Early Childhood Quality Rating & Improvement System

Governor's budget includes the following recommendation:

- Fund classroom observation of teachers and feedback as part of a proposed statewide early childhood quality rating and improvement system.
- This is one strategy in achieving the governor's agenda to raise the profile of early childhood education and support for high quality teaching.
- Teachers would be assessed in three areas: emotional climate, instructional support and classroom organization.
- Appropriation request is $2 million in FY 2012 and $2 million in FY 2014.