

2009 Education Omnibus Bill - HF2

Signed by the Governor on 5/16/09

Summary of Provision in the Education Omnibus Bill:

Funding Provisions

- Flat education funding for the next two years – 0%/0%
- \$1.5 million reduction to the Department of Education with \$750,000 of the proceeds going to the Minnesota Reading Corps and the other \$750,000 for Math and Science Teacher Academies.
- Extends for two years the authority for districts to transfer up to \$51 per pupil in their operating capital account to their general fund.

Policy Provisions

- Revises a variety of special education rules to bring Minnesota closer to federal statutes and rules, including changes for training and procedures in the Behavior Intervention Rule dealing with seclusion and locked time-out.
- Modification of the maintenance of effort provisions in the safe schools levy to reflect FTEs and not revenue spent on counselors, nurses, and social workers.
- Allows an alternative path for students not passing the math Grad to still obtain a diploma for the next 5 years.
- Suspends the 2% staff development reserve for the next two school years.
- Establishes growth model for use in the state's report card.
- Creates opportunity for district-created site-governed schools..
- Removes the voters' ability to file a petition to force a revocation vote on a referendum levy.
- Creates opportunity for district-created site-governed schools.
- Provides for new regulations significantly strengthening requirements around sponsorship for charter schools in response to the Legislative Auditor's report.
- Includes integration revenue reform in response to the Legislative Auditor's report.
- Requires the Office of Educational Accountability to report growth-based valued added data and other data annually.
- Establishes a reading instruction assessment for initial teacher licensure.
- Creates a P-20 Partnership
- Tightens oversight for online learning providers.
- Raises the project threshold cost for requiring review and comment from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
- Allows school districts to pay the costs for background checks of vendors, employees and volunteers.
- Provides for ongoing levy authority on a year-to-year basis for OPEB and provides for bonding for OPEB. Bonds issued after October 1, 2009, will have to be approved by the voters in the district seeking the bonding authority.

Notable missing provisions that were discussed throughout the session:

- Payment schedule shifts and property tax recognition shifts
- The New Minnesota Miracle – a new education funding system.
- The Consolidated Levy – Senate recommendation, a fully equalized consolidated levy would replace the un-equalized equity, operating capital, Q-comp and transition levies. A step back towards the general education levy.
- Pay for Progress – Governor recommendation to provide additional funding to districts for each student achieving medium to high growth as defined by the new growth model.
- Expansion of Q-comp – Governor recommendation to require all districts to participate in Q-comp.
- Shared Services – Senate and House both had a proposal, the Senate mandated district participation
- Alternative path for teacher licensure - Governor recommendation

More detailed information is available:

Bill Summary - http://www.senate.mn/departments/scr/billdraft/09_hf2_cc_draft_summary_educx.pdf

Bill Text - <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=ceH0002.1.html&session=ls86>