

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1616

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/11/2015	680	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education

A bill for an act

relating to early childhood education; modifying certain early learning scholarship provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 124D.165, subdivision 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application timelines and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational needs of eligible families and programs. The commissioner may prioritize applications on factors including family income, geographic location, and whether the child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly funded program providing early education or child care services.

(b) For fiscal years 2014 and 2015 only, scholarships may not exceed \$5,000 per year for each eligible child. For fiscal year 2016 and later, the commissioner shall establish a target for the average scholarship amount per child based on the results of the rate survey conducted under section 119B.02.

(c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in or on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, each year of the program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children than current funding provides. ~~The commissioner may designate a predetermined number of scholarship slots for that program and notify the program of that number.~~ Beginning July 1, 2016, a school district or Head Start program qualifying under this paragraph may use its established registration process to enroll scholarship recipients and may verify a scholarship recipient's family income in the same manner as for other program participants.

2.1 (d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has
2.2 not been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ~~ten~~ three months of
2.3 the awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in
2.4 order to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one
2.5 scholarship in a 12-month period.

2.6 (e) A child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development
2.7 screening under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening within 90
2.8 days of first attending an eligible program.

2.9 (f) For fiscal year 2017 and later, a school district or Head Start program enrolling
2.10 scholarship recipients under paragraph (c) may apply to the commissioner, in the form
2.11 and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for direct payment of state aid. Upon receipt
2.12 of the application, the commissioner must pay each program directly for each approved
2.13 scholarship recipient enrolled under paragraph (c) according to the metered payment
2.14 system or another schedule established by the commissioner.

2.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for fiscal year 2016 and later.