GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION FUNDING BILL INTRODUCED

This week, the Governor introduced his Education Finance bill which would provide supplemental funding, appropriate money, and modify education provisions on a variety of topics including teachers, special education, facilities, nutrition, libraries, early childhood education, state agencies, and more.

THE KEY PROVISIONS:

- Increases the general education basic formula allowance for FY2023 by 2%
- Links other formulas to future increases in general education basic formula (extended time revenue, local optional revenue, long-term facilities maintenance revenue formula allowance)
- Increases English Learner Revenue
- Increases special education funding for Cross Subsidy Aid
- Modifies literacy requirements& defines use of Literacy Incentive Aid
- Provides funds to expand competency-based education
- Significantly increases funding for Grow Your Own Programs
- Provides grants for expanding rigorous coursework for underserved and underrepresented students
- Increases American Indian Education Aid
- Creates Student Support Personnel Aid
- Creates School-Based Mental Health Screening Aid
- Provides funds for multibluried systems of support
- Creates culturally specific learning opportunities grants
- Creates paraprofessional training reimbursement programs
- Creates no cost federal reimbursable lunch and breakfast programs for all enrolled students
• Significantly increases funding for early learning scholarships

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**THIS WEEK @ THE LEGISLATURE**

**THE HOUSE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 14th** – The Committee heard:

- **HF 3860**: Would create school nurse recruitment grants, scholarships, and give nurses access to loan forgiveness. **This bill passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.**
- **HF 4207**: Would modify High school graduation requirements to include a personal finance course. This would begin for 9th graders enrolled in 2023-24. **This bill passed and was sent to the House floor.**
- **HF 3965**: Would change the definition of teacher “shortage area[s]” to include more relevant fields of need. This bill would also change how PELSB reports on teacher shortages. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

**Wednesday, March 16th** – The Committee heard:

- **HF 1729**: Would create the “Healthy and Hunger-free Schools Program” that requires schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the federal school lunch program if they are eligible. (Schools participating in CEP must provide free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of household income.) It would also require MDE to help ineligible schools become eligible for CEP, notify schools if they are eligible and provide them with assistance in getting federal reimbursements, and assist in expanding “breakfast after the bell” programs. Finally, it would require the state to pay federal school lunch program participants an additional fixed amount for each lunch reimbursed and the difference between the “federal free rate” and the actual paid federal amount for each lunch served. **This bill passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.**
- **HF 3580**: Would require increases in the general education basic revenue to be indexed to English Learner concentration and basic revenue and indicates how it should be used. **This bill passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.**
- **HF 4074**: Would eliminate limits on when postsecondary institutions can give information to high school students and parents, require secondary schools to annually report postsecondary participation rates, and require identical weighted GPA policies for concurrent enrollment and PSEO grades. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- **HF 807**: Would prohibit schools from being built on or near a dump site or closed landfill. It would require existing schools built on or near these sites to provide annual written notice to employees and families. **This bill passed and was referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee.**
THE HOUSE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 15th – The Committee heard:

- **HF 1742**: Would create a new aid to fund school support personnel (counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, chemical dependency counselors) so schools would not have to pay for these positions entirely out of their general fund budget. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- **HF 3634**: Would create a new “student mental health supports” revenue category that could be used to hire or contract mental health staff. This bill requires schools that receive funding to give parental notice and conduct “evidence-based” mental health screening on K-12 students. It also makes charter schools eligible for this funding. **This bill was referred to Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee.**
- **HF 649**: Would make changes to the “Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Partnership” program which funds opportunities for teachers statewide to earn the credits needed to teach a concurrent enrollment course. It expands the teacher eligibility for participation beyond secondary school, clarifies the program’s structure, and appropriates money to fund it moving forward. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

Wednesday, March 16th – The Committee heard:

- **HF 3948**: Would provide funding to the Wilderness Inquiry Credit Recovery Program and require they form at least four partnerships with school districts or charter schools. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

Thursday, March 17th – The Committee hosted a walk through and public testimony on **HF 4300**, the Governor’s Education Finance bill. *A closer explanation of this bill is outlined above.*

SENATE EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 14th - The Committee heard:

- **SF 3534**: Would allow a charter school serving at least 90 percent of deaf / hard of hearing students to give enrollment preference to a student whose primary disability is deaf / hard of hearing. **This bill passed and was sent to the Senate floor.**
- **SF 3656**: Would allow students with an IEP to receive scholarship money to attend a non-public school beginning in the 2023-24 school year. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- **SF 3297**: Would establish a special education legislative working group on tuition billing. **This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

Wednesday, March 16th - The Committee heard:

- **SF 3956**: Would make schools remediate lead in their drinking water if it exceeds 5 ppb. It would require schools to notify the Department of Health and parents of test results
and remediation efforts. The bill passed and was sent to the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.

- **SF 495**: Would prohibit schools from being built on or near a dump site or closed landfill. It would require existing schools built on or near these sites to provide annual written notice to employees and families. The bill passed and sent to the Environment Finance and Policy Committee.

- **SF 3052**: Would appropriate funds and require schools to provide students with access to free menstrual products in restrooms. This bill passed and was sent to the Senate Finance Committee.

**OTHER EDUCATION BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

- **SF 4124 / HF 2657**: Would fully fund school district special education services
- **SF 4101 / HF 3860**: Would create school nurse recruitment grants, scholarships, and give nurses access to loan forgiveness
- **SF 4087 / HF 4074**: Would eliminate limits on when postsecondary institutions can give information to high school students and parents, require secondary schools to annually report postsecondary participation rates, and require identical weighted GPA policies for concurrent enrollment and PSEO grades.
- **SF 4084 / HF 4135**: Would require an opt out option for parents on face covering requirements
- **SF 4012**: Would index EL program revenue to basic education revenue
- **HF 4282**: Would require school-sponsored sports teams to be designated by “biological sex”
- **HF 4149 / SF 3570**: Would adjust rules for rural short-call substitute teachers

**NOTE**: Please keep in mind that when a bill is introduced, it does not mean it will be heard or will be enacted into law.

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**MORE LEGISLATORS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS**

- **Senator Tom Bakk (I – 3)** – 6 Charters in District
- **Representative Tony Albright (R - 55B)** – No Charters in District
- **Representative Nels Pierson (R - 26B)** – 1 Charter in District – Running in Special Election for 1st US Congressional District (has not announced retirement)

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**NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL**

- **Monday, March 21st – House Ed Policy Committee**
  - HF341: Would create the Student Data Privacy Act
  - Presentation from MDE on Bold Literacy Plan
- **Monday, March 21st – Senate Ed Finance and Policy Committee**
- **SF 2952**: Would modify teacher shortage reporting requirement
- **SF 1316**: Would establish civics test reporting requirements

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion **Call To Action.**