

## **2016 Minnesota Laws of Interest to Nonpublic School Leaders, Students, and Parents**

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The “regular session” of the 89<sup>th</sup> state legislature has adjourned. It now appears that lawmakers will not be called back into St. Paul for a “special session” to address bonding, taxes, and transportation bills not passed prior to adjournment.

Open <https://youtu.be/BvzQU0hQ2tg> to see an August 18, 2016, press conference held by Gov. Dayton and legislative leaders. For this story from other perspectives, see [Dayton: No Special Session, Negotiations Fail](#) (MPR) and [Special Sessions Negotiations Break down](#) (StarTribune).

There will be continued analysis of 2016 laws and their implications for nonpublic schools and their families. Therefore, this will continue to be updated as necessary to reflect new interpretations as well as to add contacts for further information. Below is an **overview with links** of selected portions of this summary:

### **New 2016 Laws of Special Interest**

#### **Pre-K-12 Funding and Policy; Supplemental Budget and Policy Act**

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#### **Brief Highlights of Other Provisions in the Supplemental Budget Act**

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##### **Criminal History Background Checks for Driving Instructors**

##### **Charitable Gambling Changes**

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### **New 2016 Laws of Special Interest**

Summaries below include the “**chapter**” (or law) number and brief descriptions. **Links** to each session law and other information are provided for those accessing this electronically.

**189** – **Pre-K-12 Funding and Policy; Supplemental Budget and Policy.** This massive (599 pages!) package provides funding and policy directives for a wide array of state government programs, including education. Articles 24-34 relate to Pre-K-12 Education. Most provisions affect public schools, though some will be of particular interest to nonpublic school leaders and their families. In total, pre-k-12 grade education received a net increase of 0.2% over the base in the current state budget biennium, with \$25 million dedicated to **voluntary pre-k** (Governor Dayton’s highest priority). The pre-k funding program is one of the few with “ongoing” money, meaning the added funding will be included in base funding for the future. Additional funding for many other provisions will be used for small, one-time grants. Also, the act includes \$90.6 million for public school building bonding credits in the future—Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

Below are several selected items from Chapter [189](#):

1. **Pre-K.** This law provides funding for **voluntary pre-kindergarten programs** (Article 27, sec. 6). The act authorizes a “**school district, charter school, or combination thereof**” to operate a voluntary prekindergarten program for four-year-old pupils. The purpose of a prekindergarten program is to prepare students for kindergarten entry. Unlike most appropriations in the act, this is considered “ongoing” money for future fiscal years. However, the law limits the statewide aid entitlement for the prekindergarten program to \$27,092,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$27,239,000 in fiscal year 2018, and \$26,399,000 for fiscal year 2019 and later. MDE officials estimate that, “This... will help 3,700 more 4-year-olds across the state attend... high-quality pre-kindergarten programs, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.” Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2017 and later. **Information links from MDE on implementation:** [Voluntary Pre-K Program Q & A](#) and the [Voluntary Pre-K Application Process Q & A](#), interested districts and charter schools should complete the [Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Application](#) and submit it to MDE

online by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 1, 2016. See MDE's [Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten page link](#) for more information. News update from MDE: "...beginning this fall, 3,302 four-year-olds in 74 Minnesota school districts and charter schools will attend voluntary pre-kindergarten, free of charge" (August 11, 2016).

2. **Quality Rating and Improvement System/Parent Aware.** Increases the appropriation for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) by \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 only (Article 31, sec. 5). The QRIS is established in Minnesota Statutes, section [124D.142](#), *to ensure that Minnesota's children have access to high-quality early learning and care programs in a range of settings so that they are fully ready for kindergarten by 2020.*  
**Note for nonpublic schools:** Lisa Barnidge at MDE has advised me that, if interested, **“nonpublic schools that are rated in Parent Aware (Minnesota’s Tiered Quality and Improvement Rating System) can receive Early Learning Scholarships...**at this time, a nonpublic school that runs an early childhood program must have a child care license from DHS in order to obtain a Parent Aware rating.” To learn more about Parent Aware, you can visit <http://www.parentawareratings.org>  
**State Contact:** Lisa Barnidge, MDE: 651-582-8849 or [Lisa.Barnidge@state.mn.us](mailto:Lisa.Barnidge@state.mn.us). Also, see this link at MDE: [Early Learning Scholarships](#).
3. **School Support Personnel, “Support Our Students Grants.”** Appropriates \$12.13 million for public school counselors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and chemical dependency counselors. Provides funding and policy directives for “Student Support Services Personnel.” Allows **school districts, charter schools, intermediate districts, or other cooperative units** to apply for six-year matching grants, with grants prioritized for schools that do not currently have these student support service positions (Art. 25, secs. 56, 62).
4. **Teacher Related Provisions (a selected listing)**
  - a. **Loan Forgiveness.** Increases the **teacher shortage loan forgiveness** program appropriation in fiscal year 2017 to \$2,200,000. Makes \$200,000 the base appropriation for the program in fiscal year 2018 and later (Article 25, sec. 43).  
**Contact links:** More information about the program can be found on the [Minnesota Teacher Shortage Student Loan Repayment Program website](#). [Access the online application](#).
  - b. **Student Teachers in Shortage Areas; Grants.** Appropriates \$2,800,000 in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the [Minnesota Office of Higher Education](#) for grants to student teachers in shortage areas. Grants are *“for low-income students enrolled in a Board of Teaching-approved teacher preparation program who are interested in teaching in a high needs subject area or region after graduating and receiving their teaching license.”* This funding is available until June 30, 2019 (Article 25, secs. 59 and 62, subd. 11).

- c. **Paraprofessional Pathway to Teacher Licensure.** Provides \$1,500,000 in FY 2017 for **grants to school districts** for Grow Your Own New Teacher programs (Article 25, sec. 62, subd. 5).
- d. **Board of Teaching (BOT)** (Article 24). Amends several provisions in BOT statutes. Among these: Requires BOT to adopt rules to require at least one hour of **suicide prevention for renewal of an existing license** (effective August 1, 2017); permits the board to grant a one-year professional license, which the board may renew two times, to a qualified person to teach in a **Montessori program** operated by a district or charter school; permits the board to grant a one-year waiver, renewable two times, to qualified individuals enrolled in an **alternative preparation program** leading to certification or licensure as a career and technical education teacher (sec 1). Contact: [Minnesota Board of Teaching](#) or Phone: (651) 582-8888.
- e. **Study of Educator Licensure** (Article 24, secs. 23 and 24). Establishes a 12-member **legislative study group** to review the 2016 Office of Legislative Auditor report on teacher licensing and to report to the legislature by February 1, 2017, on **recommendations for restructuring Minnesota' teacher licensure**. The Study Group held its first meeting on June 28, 2016, when members unanimously elected Representative Sondra Erickson and Senator Chuck Wiger as co-chairs. Members appointed to the legislative study group are: Representatives Christensen, Davnie, Loon, Mariani and Yarusso; and Senators Clausen, Dahle, Dahms, Housley and Pratt. The agenda included an overview by staff from the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) on their teacher licensure evaluation report. To read the report click here: [OLA Minnesota Teacher Licensure Report](#) (March 4, 2016). **Note for nonpublic school leaders:** If interested in following these meetings, you can add your name to their e-mail notification list at <http://www.lcc.leg.mn/lsgel/>.

Also, a **Career and Technical Education Licensing Task Force** is created to study and make recommendations

- 5. **Education Excellence.** (Article 25). This article includes many amendments to statutes, mainly affecting curriculum, instruction, and testing-related issues in public schools. Among the many provisions:
  - a. Establishes policies and procedures for providing **civics tests** in public schools. Directs the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, in consultation with civics teachers, to select by July 1 of each year 50 civics test questions. Public school students are to correctly answer at least 30 of the civics test questions. However, public school districts are prohibited from preventing a student from graduating for failing to answer at least 30 of the 50 test questions.
 

**Note for Nonpublic Schools.** Although this civics test requirement is applicable to public schools only, nonpublic school leaders and others may find this link from the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation of interest: [Teaching Civics](#).

- b. Directs MDE to adopt nationally recognized **pre-k-12 physical education** standards and benchmarks. MDE is to post samples of existing assessments. The MDE commissioner is to adopt rules for implementing physical education standards.  
**Background** on Minnesota's state standards, benchmarks, and related requirements affecting public schools: [Academic Standards](#).
- c. **Changes in state testing polices.** These are generally aimed at greater transparency and support (secs. 16-24). Among the amendments: requires **districts to publish a list of tests** at the start of each school year; gives **parents and teachers authority to recommend tests to be added or removed** (though federal law requires reading and math tests in grades 3-8 for public schools); requires MDE to develop a **standard opt-out form** for those parents who don't want their child to take standardized tests; creates a data-base where teachers can **report technical testing problems**; directs districts to pay one time for students in grades 11 or 12 to take the **ACT or SAT** to the extent funds are available and requires testing companies to follow certain **data privacy standards** regarding student information.  
**Background on state testing:** State tests required for public school students remain voluntary for nonpublic school students (including those in home schools). However, state tests that may be taken by nonpublic school students include the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). The option to participate in the Minnesota Assessments at a cost is open to nonpublic schools. For more details, see these links on MDE's website: [Minnesota Tests](#) and [Statewide Testing](#).
- d. Requires districts and charter schools to notify students and parents about **student surveys**, to inform parents when surveys are administered, and to allow parents to review the survey and opt their student out of participating (sec. 27).
- e. **ACT College Ready, MCA Career, College Ready Benchmarks, and Restrictions on Remedial Education.** State colleges and universities are prohibited from requiring anyone to take a remedial, noncredit course in a subject if the person has received a college ready ACT score or met a career and college ready MCA benchmark in that subject within the last five years. Also, state colleges and universities shall not require a student to take a remedial, noncredit course if that person met a career and college ready MCA benchmark in that subject (secs. 41 and 42). See also [ACT or SAT College Ready Score](#) below. MnSCU is required to approve or reject high school MCA benchmarks (sec. 60).
- f. **Student discipline and school violence** problems are addressed in a few amendments to current law. Requires MDE to make available to school districts contact information to **school crisis response teams** (note: for related information see the [Minnesota School Safety Center](#); establishes a **student discipline working group** to review Minnesota's Pupil Fair Dismissal Act ([121A.40-56](#)) (sec. 57); requires **districts to report physical assaults** and responses to the commissioner; requires **immediate removal from class** if a

student engages in assault or violent behavior (sec. 29); and augments existing laws regarding required **notification of teachers regarding student history of violence** and documented physical assaults (Article 25, secs. 28-30 and 57). In another article, \$2,750,000 is appropriated for implementation of school-wide **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)** in schools and districts throughout Minnesota and MDE is allocated \$1,000,000 for technology and security enhancements (Article 33, sec. 2).

**Contact at MDE:** School discipline-related guidance for parents and schools—[Student Discipline](#).

6. **Federal Child and Adult Food Programs Provider.** Article 27 includes a provision authorizing a multistate, nonprofit organization to demonstrate financial viability as a program provider to MDE, which must post eligibility criteria and application information on its website.

**Note for nonpublic schools:** Child nutrition programs are available to nonpublic schools granted federal tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (3), with funding derived from federal and state governments. See this MDE link for more information – [Food and Nutrition Program Information](#).

7. **Charter Schools.** Article 28 includes several amendments to statutes governing charter schools. Amendments include those relating to eligible authorizers; application content; authority of the commissioner to review an authorizer’s performance every five years; authorizer withdrawal and mutual nonrenewal provisions; and annual public reports from authorizers. Also, an amendment allows prekindergarten deaf and hard-of-hearing pupils to enroll in a charter school beginning in the 2016-2017 school year and deletes a previously enacted limit relating to costs. A related provision in Article 29 increases special education aid by \$69,000 per year starting in fiscal year 2017 for additional aid to allow the Metro Deaf charter school to directly enroll prekindergarten pupils.

8. **Special Education** (See also [Chapter 163 below](#)). Article 29 amends numerous provisions in special education law. Among these: Removes the need for an **individual transitional plan** under certain circumstances; beginning July 1, 2018, each district must contract for student information system that is “**Schools Interoperability Framework Compliant**”; adds more restrictions and requirements related to “**physical holding or seclusion**,” including the addition of “**prone restraint**” to the list of prohibited restrictive procedures in Mn. Stat. [§125A.0942](#); MDE must identify and **remove 25 percent of the paperwork burden** on Minnesota special education teachers that results from state but not federally mandated compliance reporting requirements. No funding provided for on-line IEP system.

**Note for nonpublic school leaders:** Minnesota state law ([125A.18](#)) requires services for students with disabilities who are enrolled in nonpublic schools. MDE reports that “according to our December 1, 2015, Child Count, there were **1,942 students with disabilities attending nonpublic schools.**”

9. **Internet Broadband Expansion; Grants** (Article 30, sec. 24). Creates a matching

grant program for **school districts** seeking to expand student connectivity. Authorizes grants of up to \$50,000. Encourages cooperative applications. Requires grant applications to demonstrate that appropriate filtering technology will apply to Wi-Fi hot spots. The law appropriates \$500,000 for grants for broadband Wi-Fi hot spots and \$2,200,000 for districts that repay maximum effort capital loans. Other provisions in this act **expand access to high speed broadband Internet access in Greater Minnesota**, funded by an additional \$35 million appropriation—see [Broadband Development](#) below.

10. **Early Childhood Education.** Article 31 includes numerous provisions relating to early childhood programs. Among these:
  - a. **Increases home visiting revenue** from \$1.60 to \$3.00 times population under age 5 residing in the district on Sept 1 of the last school year, effective for FY 2018.

**Note for Nonpublic School Families:** “home visiting” is part of the **Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)** program (Mn. Stats. [§124D.13](#) and [§124D.135](#)), which provides services for **all families** that choose to access a program operated by school districts. **According to the law, ECFE** is to provide parenting education to support children's learning and development, generally providing services *“for children in the period of life from birth to kindergarten, for the parents and other relatives of these children, and for expectant parents. To the extent that funds are insufficient to provide programs for all children, early childhood family education programs should emphasize programming for a child from birth to age three and encourage parents and other relatives to involve four- and five-year-old children in school readiness programs, and other public and nonpublic early learning programs. A district may not limit participation to school district residents.”*  
**Contact at MDE: ECFE** or Mike Brown at [mde.els@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.els@state.mn.us), 651-582-8224
  - b. The **parent-child home program appropriation is increased** by \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 only (the increase is to be used over the next three fiscal years);
  - c. increased appropriations of \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 only are provided for the **Quality Rating and Improvement System**.
11. Nearly \$1 million is provided to support innovative **Adult Basic Education** programming and continue providing the full battery of **GED tests free of charge** to Minnesota students seeking the equivalency of a high-school diploma. The Commissioner of Education is to pay 100 percent of the fee charged to for the costs of one full battery of GED tests for fiscal year 2017 only.  
Contact: [MDE's Adult Basic Education-GED offices](#).

### **Brief Highlights of Other Provisions in the Supplemental Budget Act**

1. **Higher Education.** Article 1 includes some appropriation increases and adjustments affecting the Office of Higher Education as well as the major public higher education systems. Other selected highlights:

- a. **ACT or SAT College Ready Score.** Prohibits a state college or university from requiring an individual to take a remedial, noncredit course in a subject area if that individual has received a college-ready SAT score. Requires a state college or university to consider an individual's scores on the **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments**, in addition to other factors, when deciding if an individual is admitted or may enroll (sec. 21). See also Article 5, [ACT and MCA College Ready](#), above.
  - b. **Office of Higher Education (OHE) to Inform and Promote Loan Forgiveness Programs for teachers and others.** Requires OHE to develop and distribute informational materials to increase public awareness of federal public service loan forgiveness programs. Also, OHE is to provide information to the public and private teacher education programs relating to programs that provide full or partial repayment forgiveness (teacher education programs in the state are to provide the information furnished by OHE to their students) (secs. 16 and 17).
  - c. **Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at MnSCU** Requires the Minnesota State College and University System (MnSCU) to develop a plan for offering a program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (sec. 29).
2. **Public Safety and Corrections.** Article 4 enacts numerous policy changes and provides some funding for various programs, among them an allocation of \$150,000 for a grant to an organization that provides legal representation to **children in need of protection or services and children in out-of-home placement** (sec. 7(b)).
  3. **Broadband Development.** Article 5 includes an additional \$35 million for deposit in the border-to-border broadband fund account under Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.396.  
**Contact:** [Office of Broadband Development](#).
  4. **Equity.** Article 12 includes numerous funding programs to address issues related to equity. Among these is funding for a **Youth-at-Work grant program**. Grants to eligible organizations for the purpose of providing workforce development and training opportunities to economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth ages 14 to 24. "Eligible organization" or "eligible applicant" means a local government unit, **nonprofit organization**, community action agency, or a public school district (sec. 9).
  5. **Children and Families.** Article 15 of the act includes numerous amendments to laws relating to child care; child placement; child abuse; out-of-home placement; and related laws and programs administered by the [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#). Included are amendments to section [626.556, Maltreatment of Minors](#) (sec. 24); establishment of a Child Support Task Force (sec. 22); provisions related to successful transition to adulthood for children under guardianship; custody; and involuntary placement (secs. 13-15).  
**Contacts:** [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#) (MDH) especially [Child](#)



[Care and Child Support](#) (includes child care licensing and child care assistance programs).

See, also, MDH's [Overview of changes affecting human services \(PDF\)](#) (July 2016).

**87** – Permits local governments to **donate surplus equipment to nonprofit organizations** and limits tort liability claims relating to the use of such equipment. A **“nonprofit organization”** is **defined** as an “organization formed under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.” **“Surplus equipment”** is **defined** to mean: “equipment used by a local government public works department, and cellular phones and emergency medical and firefighting equipment that is no longer needed by the local government because it does not meet industry standards for emergency medical services, police, or fire departments or has minimal or no resale value.

**113** – **Requires criminal history background checks for driving instructor license applicants.** This act specifies in considerable detail the checks that the Commissioner of Public Safety must require. It also permits the commissioner to issue to an otherwise qualified applicant a temporary driving instructor license, effective for no more than 180 days, upon presentation of certain specified information.

**Contact:** For information regarding this topic, see this link at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety: [Driver Educator – All Instructors](#).

### **Charitable Gambling Changes**

[Chapter 138](#) – Adds “raffle boards” to several statutes, including those relating to lawful gambling taxes and illegal activities.

[Chapter 139](#) – Includes changes relating to “gambling managers,” raffles, prize limits, and local regulation. Amendments include those relating to an “electronic raffle selection system” and the conduct of raffles as well as bingo.

**Contacts.** Below are contact links and phone numbers for three Minnesota state agencies responsible for regulation and licensing, enforcement of laws, auditing and taxation:

- [Gambling Control Board](#) or (651) 539-1900
- [Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division in the Department of Public Safety](#) or (651) 201-7500
- [Special Taxes Division of the Department of Revenue](#) or Gina Amacher, director 651-556-6781

For more information regarding this general topic, see this summary from House Research: [Charitable Gambling in Minnesota; Information Brief](#).

**169** – **School bus safety; bus flaggers and an exception to seat belt requirements.** Requires drivers to stop vehicles at the direction of a school bus flagger street or highway having a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less until it is safe for the vehicles to proceed. This act also provides that a school bus driver is not subject to seat belt fines arising out of violations by certain passengers (be sure to open this link for details)—applicable to a school bus, including a type III vehicle and a Head Start bus, including a type III Head Start vehicle.

**Contact:** An excellent source of information for school leaders is the Department of Public Safety’s, Lt. Brian Reu, Director of Pupil Transportation Safety – Phone: 651-405-6047, or e-mail at [Brian.Reu@state.mn.us](mailto:Brian.Reu@state.mn.us)

**153** – Extends the **Legislative Task Force on Child Protection** and calls for a “**recodification**” of the **Maltreatment of Minors Act**. [See also 136 below](#). The task force is extended to the end of 2020 and several new directives are added to its duties. Also, it is to develop a work group to review the Minnesota Assessment of Parenting Children and Youth, “the tool used by Minnesota county and tribal social service agencies to determine Northstar Care for Children supplemental payment benefits.” Note this report from the task force:

[Legislative Task Force on Child Protection Report to the Minnesota Legislature](#).

This act also includes a directive to “recodify” the **Maltreatment of Minors Act**, **Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556**, and related statutes “in order to create internal consistency, eliminate redundant language, separate provisions governing investigations of maltreatment in institutions, and otherwise reorganize the statutes to facilitate interpretation and application of the law. The recodification must be drafted in bill form for introduction in the 2017 session.” **Note for nonpublic school leaders: The maltreatment law obligates those in nonpublic schools (among others) to report known or suspected neglect, physical, or sexual abuse of a child.**

According to the State Department of Human Services (DHS), “Reports regarding incidents of suspected abuse or neglect of children occurring within a family or in the community should be made to [\[your\]...local county social services](#) agency at or [\[your\] local law enforcement](#).”

**Contacts**—Advice and information links from the DHS website:

- [County, Tribal, and Social Services Contact Information](#).
- [Maltreatment of Minors Mandated Reporting Policy for DHS Licensed Programs](#).
- [Community-Based Services Manual \(CBSM\)](#).

See, also, MDH’s [Overview of changes affecting human services \(PDF\)](#) (July 2016).

**159** – Establishes requirements for disability **discrimination claims related to architectural barriers**. Amends the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

**Contact:** [Minnesota Human Rights Department](#).

**Mental Health.** Several provisions were passed that address mental health in Minnesota, including some that directly affect children and youth. Some of these are part of the pre-k-12 education articles (noted above) in the “supplemental budget act,” others are in human services articles in the same measure, and others are included in related acts. Based on a [NAMI Minnesota](#) report, below is a brief summary of some of these provisions:

**Education** (see, also, summary of the [Pre-K-12 funding and policy articles in the supplemental act](#) above).

1. Provides matching funding to public schools to hire support personnel
2. Increases funding to expand the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

3. Provides funding for staff development grants for Intermediate School Districts and Cooperatives. Appropriations of \$4.5 million for intermediate districts and other cooperatives to enhance services to students who may have challenging behaviors, mental health issues or who are suffering from trauma.

#### **Human Services.**

1. Increases funding for School-Linked Mental Health grants (\$33,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$1.45 million each year in the next biennium)
2. Increases foster care rates by 15 percent in the next biennium
3. Increases funding for the Homeless Youth Act and Safe Harbor for sexually exploited youth

The varied provisions relating to mental health in Minnesota are summarized in this news release from [NAMI Minnesota](#). See, also, the Minnesota Department of Health's [Overview of changes affecting human services \(PDF\)](#) (July 2016).

**188 – Pocket Vetoed! Omnibus Taxes.** Included in this bill was about \$257 million in tax relief during the 2016-17 biennium, followed up with \$543 million in the 2018-19 biennium.

What was not included in this regular session tax bill:

1. **Increasing Minnesota's K-12 education tax credit and including private school tuition** as a qualified expense were proposals **not passed**. See summaries of current state law: Minnesota Department of Revenue Information: [K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit](#). Minnesota House Research Summary: [The K-12 Education Deduction and Credit: An Overview](#).
2. A **sales tax exemption for the High School League**, generating about \$800,000 yearly. Legislators did not reauthorize this sales tax exemption on tickets for high school sporting events, **which helped defray the cost of participating in sports for low-income families**. Over nine years, the Minnesota State High School League has distributed more than \$6 million to schools around the state to reduce economic disparities in athletics. See this [StarTribune report](#) on the debate over this provision.

Selected items included in the vetoed measure, Chapter 188:

1. A first of its kind, student loan debt credit allowing an individual income tax credit of up to \$5,000 for principal and interest payments on student loans,
2. A credit for certain master's degree education expenses for teachers,
3. An agricultural land credit of 40% on school district bonded debt levies,
4. Expansion of the child care tax credit,
5. Tax deductions and credits for families contributing to 529 Savings Plans, and
6. Expansion of the working family tax credit

**179 – Health Policy Act of 2016.** This measure enacts numerous policy changes to statutes governing health care. Among the provisions are those requiring **health carrier notifications** when changes are made in provider networks; use of an “all-payer claims database;” **Zika virus preparedness**; amendments to the definition of “**special event food stand**” related to the number of days of operation; and requiring a **food and beverage service** establishment, youth camp, hotel, motel, lodging establishment, public

pool, or resort to **post its original license**. For more detail, see this [House Research summary](#).

**Contacts:** For more information regarding licensing, standards, and advice related to food services, pools, and related matters: [Food, Pools, and Lodging Services \(FPLS\)](#) or (651) 201-5000.

**174 – Legislative Task Force on Child Care.** The act establishes a task force “to review the loss of child care providers in the state, assess affordability issues for providers and parents, and identify areas that need to be addressed by the legislature.” The task force, in cooperation with the commissioner of human services, is to report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child care issues and the governor by January 15, 2017.

## **Other New Laws of Interest**

**81 – Unemployment insurance tax and trust fund solvency.** Following is a summary from House Research: “Unemployment insurance tax [UI] limits. Provides an ongoing UI tax reduction to employers if the balance in the UI trust fund is in excess of a specified solvency level on December 31 of the previous year. Employers with the maximum experience rating and new employers in high experience rating industries are not eligible for the reduction. The reduction takes the form of credits against future UI taxes owed. For the current UI tax year, bases the tax reduction on the solvency level of the trust fund on December, 31, 2012, resulting in a total tax reduction of approximately \$258 million.” From [House Research Summary](#).

**86 – Amends current law relating to a higher education, workforce development training program (“Dual Training Competency Grants”) in Minnesota Statutes, section [136A.246](#), administered by the Commissioner of the Office of Higher Education.**

**101 – Child care foster training related to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.** “Adds a requirement for child foster care providers to have one hour of training on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders during the first 12 months of licensure. In following years, it allows training on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to count toward the annual 12 hours of required in-service training.” From [House Research Summary](#).

**110 – Enacts recommendations from the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.** For details, see this [House Summary](#).

**116 – Amends statutes relating to an advisory group on statewide criminal and juvenile justice information policy and funding issues.** This act changes the structure and purpose of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Group. The term “advisory” is added to the title of the organization, its membership is expanded, duties are changed, and provisions relating to funding requests to the group are amended. The advisory group provides advice on statewide criminal justice information policy and funding issues. The group is to study and make recommendations to the governor, the

Supreme Court, and the legislature on many criminal justice information funding and policy issues that are specified in the law.

**129** – Amends laws relating to **workforce development**, mainly by revising language affecting “workforce development areas.” Representation on local “workforce development boards” (formerly called “councils”) **includes educational entities**. For more detail, see this summary [House Research Act Summary](#)

**136** – Amends laws relating to predatory offenders by permitting law enforcement to disclose the status of an individual as a predatory offender to a **child protection worker** with a local welfare agency for purposes of doing a **family assessment** under [Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors statutes, section 626.556](#).

**158** – “**Revisor’s**” **Corrections Act**. Corrects and updates numerous Minnesota Statutes, including several in the **Education Code** (Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 120A to 129C). These are considered technical, noncontroversial amendments. If interested in modifications affecting the education code, open the link and see sections 36-49.

**163** – The **Department of Human Services Policy Act** includes numerous provisions relating to state human services, including chemical and mental health treatment services (see [mental health summary above](#)). Among the “miscellaneous” amendments is one that affects state special education laws, specifically the **Individualized Education Programs (IEP)**. Article 3, section 1, includes this amendment to state special education statutes, Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, Section 125A.08:

*“Before a school district evaluation team makes a determination of other health disability under Minnesota Rules, part 3525.1335, subparts 1 and 2, item A, subitem (1), the evaluation team must seek written documentation of the student's medically diagnosed chronic or acute health condition signed by a licensed physician or a licensed health care provider acting within the scope of the provider's practice.”*

For a detailed summary of this entire act, open this [House Research Department Summary](#). See, also, the Minnesota Department of Health’s [Overview of changes affecting human services \(PDF\)](#) (July 2016).

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**Other summaries of new 2016 Minnesota education-related laws.** For a general summary of new education laws passed in 2016, see [MINNPOST](#) (6-3-16). For a detailed review of all items in Chapter **189**, which covers much of state government, open this link to the [House Research Department’s 87-page summary](#).

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has recently posted these two summaries: [2016 Summary of Education Articles in H.F. 2749](#) (8/19/16) and [2016 Legislative Update](#) (8/17/16).

For an excellent, detailed summary from the perspective of the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), open this link: [MSBA 2016 Legislative Summary](#). An alternative

public school lens is found in this review of the 2016 “supplemental spending bill” from [Education Minnesota](#).