

A BETTER EDUCATION BILL

On May 23, 2015, [Governor Mark Dayton vetoed the Education Bill](#), because the funding it provided was insufficient to meet the needs of our students. Governor Dayton fought to improve the education bill, securing a \$525 million increase in E-12 funding, which is \$368 million more than House Republicans initially passed. Despite the veto and a nearly \$2 billion budget surplus, House Republicans still refused to invest in Governor Dayton’s transformative pre-Kindergarten initiative, which would have benefited more than 47,000 of Minnesota’s littlest learners. House Republicans also refused to invest in high-impact initiatives like free breakfast access for young children and additional special education funding for all schools.

Veto Reason	Description	A Better Outcome
<p>Not Enough Funding for E-12 Education</p>	<p>House Republicans initially passed an education bill that invested just \$157 million in our students. Then, despite a \$1.8 billion surplus and nearly \$1 billion left on the bottom line, they agreed to increase that investment to just \$400 million. Governor Dayton vetoed that bill, because it was insufficient to meet the needs of our schools and our students.</p>	<p>Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, delivering a \$525 million overall investment in E-12 education this session – making crucial investments in our kids and our shared future. This was a \$368 million improvement over the bill that was first passed by the House Republicans (\$157 million) and was \$125 million more than the vetoed bill (\$400 million) – an amount House Republicans were unwilling to accept on the final night of session.</p>
<p>Not Enough Basic Funding for K-12 Schools</p>	<p>House Republicans initially passed an education bill that increased the per-pupil funding formula by just 0.6% in the first year of the biennium, and 0.6% in the second year. This inadequate level of funding would have caused teacher layoffs, increased class sizes, and shortchanged our students’ futures.</p>	<p>Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, delivering more funding for every school in Minnesota. The new bill will increase the per-pupil funding formula by 2% in the first year of the biennium, and 2% in the second. This was a \$233 million improvement over the bill that was first passed by House Republicans.</p>
<p>Not Enough for Early Learning</p>	<p>House Republicans refused to use even a fraction of Minnesota’s \$1.8 billion budget surplus to expand access to high-quality preschool for every four year old in Minnesota. In doing so, they denied 47,000 young learners access to free, all-day preK. Given the size of the state’s budget surplus, and the need to address Minnesota’s glaring achievement gaps, Governor Dayton vetoed the bill and fought for more preK funding this session.</p>	<p>Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back. The Governor agreed to drop his effort to provide access to preschool for every four-year-old. But his efforts secured an additional \$100 million for early learning initiatives (early learning scholarships, Head Start, school readiness, Early Childhood Family Education, etc.) this session that will help thousands of young learners access high-quality preschool and other early learning programs. Additionally, Governor Dayton has pledged to continue fighting to expand access to preschool for all 47,000 four-year-olds.</p>

No Head Start Funding	Governor Dayton proposed a major new investment in Head Start to help ensure all 2,400 children on the wait list would receive access to the great start they need to succeed in school. But Republicans refused to include funding for this important measure.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, and Republicans then agreed to invest an additional \$10 million in Head Start this session. This new funding will cut the Head Start waiting list in half, providing access to an additional 1,200 children.
No Increase in Funding for St. Paul Promise Neighborhood or the Northside Achievement Zone	House Republicans did not include an increase in funding for the Northside Achievement Zone or the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood – community partnerships designed to target the achievement gap among high-risk children in low-income neighborhoods.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, delivering \$4 million in new funding for the Northside Achievement Zone and St. Paul Promise Neighborhood.
No Funding for English Language Learning	House Republicans provided no new funding for English Language Learning programs, making it very difficult for schools and teachers across Minnesota to meet the educational needs of more than 68,000 students for whom English is not their native language.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back. Together, they expanded eligibility for English Language Learning. In 2014, the Governor extended the number of years schools can serve these students from five to six years. This year, he and the Legislature secured \$3 million to extend those services to a total of seven years per student – giving them the educations and supports they need to succeed in school and life.
Too Little Funding for American Indian Students	House Republicans passed an education bill that provided meager funding for schools across Minnesota that serve American Indian students.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, and secured an additional \$12.5 million investment that will be directed to schools across Minnesota that serve over 19,000 American Indian students. This measure will help improve academic achievement, decrease dropout rates, and improve school climates for American Indian students in a culturally appropriate manner.
No Funding for Bureau of Indian Education Schools	House Republicans provided no funding for Bureau of Indian Education schools.	Governor Dayton and DFLers in the Legislature fought back, and secured \$5 million more for Bureau of Indian Education schools across Minnesota.

Governor Dayton Will Keep Fighting

Governor Dayton remains strongly committed to improving our investments in public education. In the upcoming 2016 Legislative Session, Governor Dayton will keep fighting to correct glaring deficiencies in the Education Bill that Republicans refused to correct, and to make additional investments in our students that will improve student achievement, and prepare all children for success in school and life.

- **All Day PreK** – With \$1 billion left on the bottom line, the Governor will keep fighting to help every four-year-old attend preschool. This important measure will build on the successes of all-day Kindergarten, save parents money, help prepare all students for success in school, and narrow our state’s achievement gap.

- **School Breakfasts** – This session, Governor Dayton proposed expanding access to free breakfasts for all students preK through Grade 3. Research shows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But right now, only 39 percent of elementary age students participate in the school breakfast program.
- **Special Education** – This session, Governor Dayton proposed investing \$41 million in special education, freeing up additional funds for all Minnesota classrooms. The Governor will continue working to increase the state’s investment in special education.