



Date: May 18, 2021

To: Legislative Advisory Commission Members

Senator Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

Senator Julie Rosen
Chair—Senate Finance Committee

Representative Rena Moran
Chair—Ways and Means Committee

Senator Roger C. Chamberlain
Chair—Education Finance and Policy
Committee

Representative Jim Davnie
Chair—Education Finance Committee

From: Commissioner Jim Schowalter, Secretary Legislative Advisory Commission

Subject: #1 MDE Summer Learning - State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation

I am pleased to submit for your awareness a package of summer learning investments to address learning disruptions experienced by students in Minnesota due to the pandemic. This \$75 million package was agreed to by Governor Walz and legislative leaders in creating a budget framework and is part of the \$500 million set aside in the budget negotiations for flexible COVID-19 response from Minnesota's federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) authorized in the American Rescue Plan Act.

The State Fiscal Recovery Fund award was subject to the LAC review process in M.S. 3.3005, and I have attached the March 19, 2021 session submission memo for your reference. This review period ended with the adjournment of the 2021 Legislative Session and the Governor is taking action to provide quick support for summer learning.

Throughout the pandemic, the Governor has been focused on meeting the academic, mental health, and social/emotional needs of our students. To address the impacts of the pandemic facing our students, we must center our approach on students. The summer legislative package put forward in January provided strategies to center students and meet their needs. For this reason, the Governor is allocating \$75 million of the SFRF to programming that will provide solutions for academic enrichment and mental health supports starting this summer for our students, families, educators, communities, and schools. The investments are as follows:

1. Academic and mental health supports for schools and districts (\$34.614 million)

Provide public schools and districts a general allocation to create partnerships and provide services in the following areas:

- a. Expand mental health and well-being supports to youth and adolescents attending school district and charter school summer learning programs.
- b. Partner with community businesses and organizations to develop a summer mentor and/or tutoring model that covers enrichment programming and other costs such as transportation and meals to increase student participation.
- c. Bring school-based summer programs into the community, providing opportunities for enrichment, social and emotional skill building, mental health supports, and tutoring services.
- d. Provide students with summer field trips for hands-on learning opportunities. Hands-on learning opportunities include activities such as trips to nature centers, state parks, zoos, museums or theaters.

2. Preschool for 4- and 5-Year-Olds (\$20 million)

Provide summer preschool or pre-kindergarten to 4- and 5-year-olds. These funds can be used in a star-rated, public or private, preschool or pre-kindergarten in-person learning program.

3. School-Linked Mental Health Grants (\$6.011 million)

Fund mental health services for students and educators through School-linked Mental Health Grants administered by the Department of Human Services. This will address an increased need for community mental health services, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Expand Access to Tutoring (\$3.25 million)

Expand access to services, including: academic enrichment, mental health supports, and other wrap-around services and enrichment opportunities for K-12 children. Grants will be provided to experienced entities, such as community organizations. Two percent of grant funds will be reserved for grant administration.

5. Increase Adult Basic Education Program Funding (\$10 million)

Strengthen Adult Basic Education (ABE) programming statewide to ensure access to, enhance the quality of, and to increase the ABE programming available. This will fund expanded ABE programming for the summer of 2021 and, if funding remains available, will be used throughout fiscal year 2022 to build and help sustain enhanced programming year-round.

6. Learning Acceleration and College Readiness Initiatives (\$1.125 million)

Fund the Office of Higher Education's (OHE) Summer Academic Enrichment Program and Intervention for College Attendance Program for the summer months. This will address educational

challenges due to the pandemic, which is disproportionately impacting the most underserved students.

Minnesota has a bold vision for our future where every child thrives. Closing gaps caused by pandemic requires us to provide research-based practices and supports to meet the needs of each and every student beginning this summer.

cc: Bill Marx, House Fiscal Analysis Department
Eric Nauman, Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis
Commissioner Heather Mueller
Britta Reitan, State Budget Director
Alisha Cowell, Team Leader
Jeff Schnobrich, Executive Budget Officer