

Special Session

The special session, which Governor Dayton called for June 12, adjourned after one week of work. While agreeing to an array of bills, several outstanding issues were not resolved. And although they could have continued to meet, the MN Senate did not want to meet after Friday and adjourned so no other action could be taking by the House. While negotiations went late into the night Friday, the governor, House and Senate could not reach agreement on a bonding, COVID-19 local government aid, CARES Act funding distribution, and police reform bills before adjournment.

Omnibus Education Policy Bill Passes

The House and Senate did pass an omnibus education policy bill. [HF33](#), includes the same language that failed to pass the last night of the regular legislative session. Below is a summary of the key provisions:

Functional behavior assessment: Allows a school district to conduct a functional behavior assessment (FBA) as a standalone evaluation without conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the student.

Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instruction Services: Allows a student who receives special education services to participate in Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instruction Services (ADSIS). Under current law, a student with an individualized education program cannot receive ADSIS services in addition to special education services.

Fuel contracts: Clarifies that contracts for fuel or transportation are not subject to the two-year term limitation for most school district contracts for services or goods. Limits contracts for fuel or transportation to a term of ten years.

Referendum notice timelines: Increases the earliest that a school district may deliver a notice of an upcoming operating referendum election from 30 to 45 days prior to the date of the election.

Mental health awareness training: Adds requirement for renewal of a Tier 1 teacher license that Tier 1 teachers be trained in mental illness the same as currently required of Tier 3 and 4 teachers.

Vaping awareness and prevention: Requires vaping prevention instruction for public school students in grades 6 to 8. Encourages vaping prevention instruction for high

school students. Requires MDE to include tobacco use and vaping questions in the Minnesota student survey.

Prek dismissal and discipline: Prohibits school districts and charter schools from dismissing a child enrolled in a preschool or prekindergarten program, and provides that expulsions and exclusions may be used only after the school district or charter school has exhausted specified non-exclusionary discipline resources and only in circumstances where there is an ongoing safety threat to the child or others.

Verification of age for admission to public school: Aligns with federal guidance that a school district may not require a birth certificate to enroll in a public school. Allows for other mechanisms for verifying student age.

Early learning scholarships: Makes several changes to early learning scholarship administration:

- Clarifies that a child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development screening must complete development screening within 90 days of first attending an eligible program or within 90 days after the child's third birthday if awarded scholarship under the age of three.
- Extends the deadline by which early childhood programs must have three-or four star Parent Aware ratings to accept early learning scholarships. The deadline is extended from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2024.