

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2229

Introduced by

Senators Poolman, J. Lee, Murphy

Representatives Hawken, N. Johnson, Hogan

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the authorization of a school district mill levy for an early childhood education program; and to amend and reenact section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education; ~~and to provide an appropriation for early childhood education grants.~~

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-58. ~~Prekindergarten program~~Early childhood education - Authorization - Support.

The board of a school district may establish ~~a prekindergarten~~ an early childhood education program and, provided the program is approved by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with chapter 15.1-37, may ~~receive and expend any state~~ support that program with:

1. Local tax revenues, other than those necessary to support the district's kindergarten program and the provision of elementary and high school educational services;
2. State moneys specifically appropriated for the program; ~~any federal;~~
3. Federal funds specifically appropriated or approved for the program; ~~and any gifts; and~~
4. Gifts, grants, and donations specifically given for the program.

~~**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$4,683,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of providing annual early childhood education grants to eligible school districts, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.~~

- ~~1. Any school district offering a program of early childhood education, approved in accordance with section 15.1-37-01, is eligible to receive a grant under this section.~~
- ~~2. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide for an annual application process and shall select award recipients. The selection process must take into account the geographic distribution of recipients, the district's service area, the general economic circumstances within the service area, and the district's current or anticipated financial commitment to providing early childhood education.~~
- ~~3. A school district may not receive more than \$100,000 annually under this section.~~
- ~~4. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall commit to maintaining a full-time equivalent student-teacher ratio of ten to one or sixteen to one if the teacher is assisted by a full-time classroom aid.~~
- ~~5. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall commit to utilizing the PowerSchool information system and to providing data to the superintendent of public instruction at the time and in the manner requested by the superintendent.~~
- ~~6. The superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the grant recipients, compile data regarding the recipients' provision of early childhood education, and report any findings and recommendations to the legislative management.~~

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 57-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Early childhood education program - Mill levy - Voter approval.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, upon approval by a majority of the qualified electors of the school district voting on the question at a regular or special school district election, the board of the district may dedicate a tax levy of one mill on each dollar of taxable valuation of real property in the district for the purpose of establishing and supporting an early childhood education program. All revenue accruing from this levy must be deposited in a separate fund known as the early childhood education program fund. If the need for the early childhood education program fund terminates, the board shall order the termination of the levy and shall transfer any balance remaining in the fund to the general fund of the school district.