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Article 1 General Education

Section 1. Authorization; notification. Clarifies the reporting requirements when a student withdraws from or doesn't attend a Post-Secondary Enrollment Options course for ten consecutive days.

Section 2. Digital instruction. Clarifies accessibility requirements for the Online Instruction Act by including section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act.

Section 3. Supplemental online courses. Includes a provision regarding supplemental online course fees that was part of the Online Learning Options but not included in the Online Instruction Act when it was adopted last year.

Section 4. Lease purchase; installment buys. Updates language in the achievement and integration statute for cities of the first class to refer to achievement and integration plans instead of desegregation plans.

Section 5. Revisor instruction. Directs the revisor of statutes to remove the term "state-approved" for online options from the care and treatment statutes.

Article 2 Education Excellence

Section 1. Directory information. Allows school districts and charter schools to share specific student data to the Department of Employment and Economic Development to coordinate special education services with pre-employment transition services for students with disabilities.

Section 2. Absences from school for religious and cultural observances. Allows for approved absences from school for instruction provided by Tribal spiritual or cultural advisors.

Section 3. Required academic standards. Strikes obsolete language related to physical education standards. Paragraph (c) requires instruction in child physical and sexual abuse prevention as part of the health curriculum beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and later.

Sections 4 and 5. World language and culture; proficiency certificates. Clarifies the required levels of proficiency for Minnesota bilingual seals.

Section 6. Graduation requirements. Delays the government and citizenship course requirement for graduation. Replaces “credits” with “credit” for the physical education graduation requirement.

Section 7. School district process for reviewing curriculum, instruction, and student achievement goals; Striving for comprehensive achievement and civic readiness. Renames the world’s best workforce statute. Directs school districts to include goals for closing the opportunity gap, in addition to the academic achievement gap.

Section 8. Language access plan. During the 2025-2026 school year, requires a district to adopt a language access plan that includes the district’s process and procedures to render effective language assistance to students and adults who communicate in a language other than English.

Section 9. Rigorous course taking information: AP, IB, and PSEO. Changes the reporting for the rigorous course taking report from February to July 1 of each year.

Section 10. Purpose. Updates “Erin’s Law” to be consistent with the requirement to include instruction in child physical and sexual abuse prevention as part of the health curriculum beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and later.

Section 11. Curriculum. Strikes obsolete language related to sexual abuse prevention curriculum.

Section 12. Assessments. Corrects a cross reference.

Section 13. Test administration. Strikes language that is codified in section 120B.305, subd. 3.

Section 14. Retaliation prohibited. Moves language that currently appears in section 120B.31, subdivision 6 into its own subdivision.

Section 15. General requirements; test design. Removes language and relocates it to the end of the last subdivision of the section. Rewords the language for clarity.

Section 16. Assessment reporting requirements. Removes duplicative language. Adds language deleted in the previous section.

Section 17. Student performance data. Removes language reported in various other reports to eliminate duplicative work for the Department of Education.

Section 18. School performance reports and public reporting. Modifies the school performance data reporting date from September to December.

Sections 19 and 20. Prohibition on American Indian mascots. Allows school districts with an American Indian mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name one additional year, until September 1, 2026, to comply with the prohibition on American Indian mascots.

Section 21. Smudging permitted. Allows an American Indian student or staff member to use tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar to conduct smudging in a public school.

Section 22. Consultation. Requires a school district or charter school to consult the exclusive representative for paraprofessionals regarding special education paraprofessional training requirements.

Section 23. Student journalism; student expression.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) Defines specific terms for the purposes of the section.

(b) Defines “school-sponsored media” as material that is:

- 1) prepared, written, published, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated by a student journalist;
- 2) distributed to students in the school; and
- 3) prepared by a student journalist under the supervision of a student media adviser.

Excludes material prepared solely for distribution or transmission in the classroom in which the material is produced, or a yearbook, from the definition.

(c) Defines “school official” as a school principal or other person having administrative control of a school.

(d) Defines “student journalist” as a school district or charter school student in grades 6 through 12 who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or otherwise prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

(e) Defines “student media adviser” as a qualified teacher that the school district or charter school designates to supervise student journalists or provides instruction related to school-sponsored media.

Subd. 2. Student journalists; protected conduct. (a) States that a student journalist retains the right to exercise their freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, except as provided in subdivision 3. A student journalist has the right to determine the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media, consistent with subdivision 3.

(b) Prohibits a district or charter school from retaliation against a student media adviser for supporting a student journalist exercising rights or freedoms under paragraph (a) or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

(c) A student media adviser must not be deterred from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists.

Subd. 3. Unprotected expression. (a) States the section does not authorize or protect student expression that:

- 1) is defamatory;
- 2) is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
- 3) constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- 4) violates federal or state law;
- 5) causes a material or substantial disruption of school activities; or
- 6) is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules.

(b) Clarifies that publication of an advertisement that promotes the purchase of a product or service that is unlawful for purchase or use by minors is prohibited.

(c) Prohibits a school or district from authorizing any prior restraint of school-sponsored media except as permitted under this subdivision.

Subd. 4. Student journalist policy. Directs a school district or charter school to adopt a student journalist policy consistent with this section.

Section 24. Publishing proceedings. Allows a school district to publish the proceedings of school board meetings on the official district website or the official newspaper of the school district.

Section 25. Boards shall not withhold grades or diplomas for nonpayment of student fees. Clarifies that the protections of the Fee Law for fee debt balances apply to Tribal contract schools.

Section 26. Notice. Amends the notification requirements for parents of English Language learners.

Section 27. General requirements for programs. Clarifies that the English Language development standards that are required in rules are part of the general program requirements.

Section 28. Repealer. Repeals section 120B.31, subdivisions 2 (statewide testing) and 6 (retaliation prohibited).

Article 3 Teachers

Section 1. Reporting. Clarifies the reporting years for the report on educator workforce initiatives designed to increase racial and ethnic diversity.

Section 2. Supply and demand report. Clarifies the reporting timeline for the teacher supply and demand report and clarifies that the report must include data regarding teacher licensures, teacher diversity, survey data from school districts and teacher preparation programs, and whether districts are making progress in hiring teachers and substitute teachers in shortage areas.

Section 3. Authority to license. Establishes a timeline for the Board of School Administrators to take over administrator licensing from the Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).

Section 4. Special education requirements. Establishes the requirements for PELSB to approve an application for a Tier 1 special education license.

Section 5. Professional requirements. Clarifies that a Tier 1 license applicant must have a bachelor's degree unless they meet an exemption in subdivision 2a.

Sections 6. Special education requirements. Establishes the requirements for PELSB to approve an application for a Tier 2 special education license.

Section 7. Coursework. Clarifies that a teacher is recommended for licensure through the licensure via portfolio process instead of granted a license.

Section 8. Requirements. Allows a teacher who has completed licensure via portfolio or holds a national board certification to qualify for a Tier 4 license.

Section 9. Tests. Exempts a teacher licensure applicant who holds a national board certification from the content and pedagogy exams.

Section 10. Testing accommodations. Strikes obsolete language.

Section 11. Prohibition on teacher assignment. Requires a school district or charter school to place a teacher in a noninstructional assignment if the teacher is criminally charged with certain offenses.

Section 12. Development, evaluation, and peer coaching for continuing contract teachers. Clarifies that non-first-class city school district teacher development and evaluation must be aligned to the standards of effective practice.

Section 13. Development, evaluation, and peer coaching for continuing contract teachers. Clarifies that first-class city school district teacher development and evaluation must be aligned to the standards of effective practice.

Section 14. Definitions. Clarifies the definition of “heritage language and culture teacher” to mean a teacher with a familial connection to their community’s language and culture, who is proficient in the language and engaged in the culture and uses this connection to support students as they learn academic content, become proficient in the language, and engage with the culture. Provides a definition of a heritage language and cultural teacher of American Sign Language.

Section 15. Heritage language and culture teacher licensure pathway program. Allows PELSB to prioritize program participation by using the top languages spoken by Minnesota students and licensure scarcity.

Section 16. Board grants. Expands the eligibility to the teacher mentorship grant to include Tribal contract schools.

Section 17. Repealer. Repeals sections 122A.2451, subdivision 9 (alternative teacher preparation report) and 122A.185, subdivision 4 (basic skills exam remedial assistance).

Article 4 Read Act

Section 1. Title: The Read Act. Amends the statutory citations for the Read Act.

Section 2. Certified trained facilitator. Defines “certified trained facilitator” as a person employed by a school district or regional literacy network who has completed structured literacy training and has completed additional training in providing professional development in structured literacy.

Section 3. Literacy specialist. Strikes language that excludes a literacy specialist employed by the Department of Education or by a school district as a literacy lead from the training requirements of the Read Act.

Section 4. Oral language. Amends the definition of “oral language” to include expressive sign language.

Section 5. Literacy goal. Amends the purpose of the state literacy goal to “meet grade level proficiency.” Clarifies the training timelines. Excludes teachers who have completed the required training within the last 5 years from the training requirements.

Sections 6, 7, and 10. Identification; report. Increases the number of screenings for kindergarten through grade 3 students from two times to three times each school year.

Section 8. Staff development. Makes conforming changes. Clarifies that a district offering early childhood programs must provide early childhood staff with the approved training.

Section 9. Local literacy plan. Amends a report to the legislature on local literacy plans to include the number of teachers and other staff required to complete the training that have not been trained. Requires updated reporting in 2026 and 2027.

Section 11. Progress monitoring. Clarifies that progress monitoring for students not reading at grade level is done using approved assessments.

Section 12. Professional development. For the 2024-2025 school year only, allows for a reduction in instructional hours for students in grades 1 through 3 to allow teachers to receive the required evidence-based training.

Section 13. Minnesota reading corps program. Requires Minnesota reading corps programs to use evidence-based reading instruction and interventions focused on structured literacy.

Section 14. Revisor instruction. Directs the revisor of statutes to renumber two sections of the Read Act and make necessary cross-reference changes.

Article 5 Special Education

Section 1. Children birth through age six experiencing developmental delays. Updates the ages related to the definition of developmental delay for early childhood special education to include children age three through age six.

Section 2. Individualized education program. Allows a school district to conduct an assessment for developmental adapted physical education as a stand-alone evaluation.

Section 3. Eligibility for Part C. Adds a specific reference to Minnesota Rules.

Section 4. Requirement. Clarifies that the requirements for alternative instruction before a special education evaluation apply to children in kindergarten through grade 12.

Section 5. Special Education Licensure Reciprocity Working Group.

Subdivision 1. Working group established. Requires PELSB to establish a working group on special education licensure reciprocity.

Subd. 2. Members. (a) Requires the board to consult with organizations listed in paragraph (b) before appointing members to the working group.

(b) By October 1, 2024, requires the board to appoint the following members to the working group:

- 1) the PELSB executive director or their designee;
- 2) one representative from the board;
- 3) two representatives from the Minnesota Administrators of Special Education;
- 4) two representatives from the Minnesota Association of School Administrators;
- 5) two representatives from the Minnesota School Boards Association;
- 6) two representatives from Education Minnesota;
- 7) four licensed special education teachers;
- 8) two representatives from the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; and
- 9) two representatives from alternative teacher preparation programs.

Subd. 3. Duties. Requires the group to meet on a regular basis and to review current statutory and rule requirements for persons with a special education license from another state to qualify for a special education license in Minnesota and make recommendations for statutory or rule changes necessary to streamline requirements for out-of-state applicants. Requires the board to submit a report to the legislature.

Subd. 4. Administrative provisions. (a) Directs PELSB's executive director to convene the first meeting of the working group and the board to provide meeting space and administrative services for the group.

(b) Requires working group members to serve without compensation or payment of expenses.

(c) Establishes February 1, 2025, or upon submission of the report, as an expiration date for the group.

Section 6. Commissioner of education; legislative report on definitions. Directs the commissioner to define the following: gifted student, talented student, twice-exceptional student, print disabled student, and reading disabled student. Directs the commissioner to report to the legislature by

February 15, 2025, on the definitions and what qualifies a student in each category for special education services and how eligibility is determined.

Article 6 Charter Schools

Section 1. Goal and purposes. Requires a charter school to identify its purposes in the charter contract and to document its implementation of those purposes in its annual report. Requires that this documentation be a component of the authorizer’s performance review of the school.

Section 2. Definitions. Aligns the definitions of “charter management organization” and “educational management organization” to the United States Department of Education framework. Narrows the definition of “immediate family” to mean any relationship by blood, marriage, adoption, or partnership of spouses, parents, grandparents, siblings, children, first cousins, aunts, uncles, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Section 3. Certain federal, state, and local requirements. Provides that a charter school must comply with additional requirements relating to the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

Section 4. Roles, responsibilities, and requirements of authorizers. Establishes statutory duties for a charter school authorizer, including roles relating to charter school autonomy, purpose, and accountability. Provides that an authorizer’s responsibilities include duties relating to charter school formation, contracting, oversight, and evaluation. Prohibits the commissioner from imposing additional duties on authorizers beyond the duties required under statute or in the charter contract. Requires an authorizer to document certain annual staff training.

Section 5. Application process. Technical change to clarify that the application process applies to organizations not yet approved as authorizers.

Section 6. Review by commissioner. Requires the commissioner to transmit the authorizer performance report to each school authorized by the authorizer (in addition to the authorizer itself). Requires the commissioner to publish authorizer performance review information at least 12 months before taking effect.

Section 7. Individuals eligible to organize. Removes the "statement of assurances" requirement from new charter school applications.

Section 8. Authorizer’s affidavit; approval process. Removes redundant required information from the authorizer’s affidavit that is already known to the commissioner from other materials submitted by the authorizer. Provides that the grades and number of primary enrollment sites in an approved affidavit are final and can only be modified by the supplemental affidavit statutory process.

Section 9. Adding grades or sites. Clarifies the information required when a charter school seeks to add additional grades or sites.

Section 10. Board of directors. Requires that a charter school’s initial board of directors and school developers comply with certain training requirements upon incorporation of the school. Provides a process to transition from the initial board to the ongoing board of directors. Modifies membership criteria for the board of directors. Prohibits a person from simultaneously serving on more than one charter school board. Establishes certain charter school board election processes.

Requires the board to adopt a nepotism policy. Modifies board member pre-term and annual training requirements. Requires the board's performance to be annually assessed and reported in the school's annual report.

Section 11. Limits on charter school agreements. Extends certain conflict of interest provisions to apply to contracts, leases, or purchases between a charter school and the school's authorizer or a board member, employee, contractor, volunteer, or agent of the school's authorizer. Clarifies that this limitation does not apply to contracts for legal services from a lawyer who is subject to the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

Section 12. Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract. Requires that a hearing regarding charter school nonrenewal or termination be recorded and that the recording be preserved for three years and available to the public.

Section 13. Mutual nonrenewal. Prohibits a pre-operational charter school from changing its authorizer.

Section 14. Admission requirements and enrollment. Requires that a school staff member be employed for at least 480 hours in a school year for that staff member's children to receive enrollment preference. Modifies the conditions under which a student's enrollment in a charter school is discontinued.

Section 15. Teachers. Prohibits a charter school from contracting with a CMO or EMO to provide necessary teachers.

Section 16. Administrators. Requires a charter school board to establish qualifications for all administrative, academic supervision, or instructional leadership positions. Requires certain training for school administrators with and without an administrator's license. Establishes conflict of interest requirements for charter school administrators. Prohibits a charter school administrator from serving on the board of another charter school.

Section 17. Conflicts of interest. Prohibits a charter school employee or board member from serving on the board or decision-making committee of the school's authorizer. Requires a school employee or board member to disclose any paid compensation they receive from the school's authorizer.

Section 18. Audit report. Strikes language relating to charter school financial management. The stricken language is recodified in a later section.

Section 19. Dissemination of information. Requires a charter school to disseminate information about the school to various targeted groups. Requires that these information-sharing activities be documented in the school's annual report and in the authorizer's performance review. Provides that an authorizer must provide certain financial statements upon request.

Section 20. Use of state money. Requires a charter school to adopt a procurement policy. Requires that all purchases using state funds be made consistent with the school's procurement policy. Provides certain policy components. Authorizes the commissioner to reduce a charter school's aid if the school violates its procurement policy. Recodifies certain provisions relating to financial management.

Article 7 Nutrition and Libraries

Section 1. Federal child and adult care food program and federal summer food service program; criteria and notice. Clarifies eligibility for nonprofit multisite sponsoring organizations applying for participation in the federal child and adult care food program or summer food service program.

Section 2. Metropolitan Library Service Agency. Exempts the executive director of MELSA from the general requirement that a chief administrative officer of a regional library system hold a master's degree in library science.

Section 3. Book banning prohibited.

Subd. 1. Access to materials. Prohibits the governing body of certain libraries and library systems from banning, removing, or otherwise restricting access to an otherwise age-appropriate book or other material selected according to a library materials policy based solely on the viewpoint, content, message, idea, or opinion conveyed, except for certain practical, pedagogical, or legal reasons.

Subd. 2. Library materials policy. Requires a library to adopt a policy establishing procedures for selection and reconsideration of library materials. Requires certain policy components related to parental authority and administrative control.

Subd. 3. Collection management. Prohibits a governing body or other body with personnel authority from discriminating or disciplining an individual for complying with the law governing access to library materials.

Article 8 Health and Safety

Section 1. Legitimate exceptions. Provides that a student may be excused from school attendance for instruction conducted by a Tribal spiritual or cultural advisor. Clarifies that child medical appointments include appointments conducted through telehealth.

Section 2. Healthy aging and dementia education. Encourages school districts and charter schools to provide instruction on health aging and dementia. Requires the commissioner of education to consult with the commissioner of health and dementia advocacy organizations to provide schools resources on healthy aging and dementia.

Section 3. Safe schools transparency. Prohibits a charter school or school district from engaging in retaliatory acts against a teacher or other school employee for discussing incidents of school violence or dangerous conduct.

Section 4. Definition [of health services specialist]. Removes the requirements that the school health services specialist employed at the Department of Education have experience overseeing a budget, supervising personnel, and have a graduate degree in nursing, public health, education, or a related field.

Section 5. Access to space for mental health care through telehealth. Requires a school district or charter school to provide high school students with access to private space to receive mental

health care via telehealth. Provides for certain administrative processes. Provides certain immunity to a school district or charter school relating to access to space for telehealth.

Section 6. Exclusions. Clarifies when drugs or medicine may be administered in emergency school situations, including in the judgement of a licensed nurse.

Section 7. Administration. Clarifies that a school may consult with a licensed nurse in developing its policy relating to administration of drugs or medicine.

Section 8. Districts and schools permitted to maintain supply. Authorizes registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to administer epinephrine auto-injectors in school settings.

Section 9. School [definition for Pupil Fair Dismissal Act]. Clarifies that the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act also applies to charter schools.

Section 10. Students pulled out of class; notice and record keeping. Requires school personnel to notify a student's parents if the student was pulled out of class under certain circumstances. Requires school personnel to keep a record of the notification. Encourages a nonpublic school to adopt a similar notice and recordkeeping policy.

Section 11. Allowed uses [Student support personnel aid]. Allows student support personnel aid to be used to maintain existing student support services personnel positions, instead of creating new positions, if the superintendent or charter school director provides the commissioner with assurances that the positions would be eliminated without this flexibility.

Section 12. Eating disorder awareness. Requires the Minnesota State High School League to provide school coaches with eating disorder prevention education resources.

Section 13. Facilities and schools. Clarifies the Department of Education's responsibility to screen and investigate allegations of maltreatment involving students at least 18 but not yet 22 years of age.

Article 9 Early Learning

Section 1. Kindergarten [definition]. Strikes language defining a prekindergarten program. The stricken language is recodified in a later section.

Section 2. Prekindergarten [definition]. Recodifies a definition of prekindergarten. The definition is stricken in an earlier section and is otherwise unchanged from the current law definition.

Section 3. Voluntary prekindergarten program for eligible four-year-old children. Makes programmatic changes to merge the voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) programs. Unifies the program requirements, including requirements related to standards-alignment, assessment, program coordination, teacher licensure, child eligibility, etc. Provides that the commissioner receives applications for participation every four years (under current law, a program may annually apply for participation). Authorizes the commissioner to reallocate seats in nonapplication years as necessary. Effective for the 2025-2026 school year and later.

Section 4. Family eligibility [for an early learning scholarship]. Extends eligibility for an early learning scholarship to a child whose parent or guardian is in need of child protection or is in foster care.

Section 5. Applications; priorities [for early learning scholarships]. Gives application priority to children who are in a substance use or mental health treatment program, or who have an individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP).

Section 6. Revisor instruction. Instructs the revisor of statutes to make technical and conforming changes related to the merger of the voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus programs or any other changes required by the bill.

Section 7. Repealer. Repeals the school readiness plus program upon the program's merger with the voluntary prekindergarten program.

Article 10

Education Partnerships and Compacts

Section 1. Establishment; membership [of the P-20 education partnership]. Removes duties from the P-20 partnership relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. These duties are transferred to a new council in a later section.

Section 2. Military Interstate Children's Compact State Council. Establishes a standalone state council for the Military Interstate Children's Compact required under section 127A.85, Article VIII. Provides for membership and powers and duties of the council. Requires the council to make a biennial legislative report.

Section 3. Intrastate student transfers for children of military service members. Provides certain rights and protections for children of Minnesota Army National Guard and Air National Guard members when the children transfer between Minnesota public schools.