



Issue Report

FALL 2016 MEMBER MEETINGS

Advocating for Greater Minnesota schools to put first the education, growth, and development of learners to bring about our best possible future.



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

EARLY LEARNING



Early Childhood Programs

- Research finds 16:1 return on investment
- Seven major state programs:
 - Headstart
 - School Readiness
 - Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
 - Early Learning Scholarships
 - Child Care Assistance
 - Voluntary Pre-K
- Programs serve about 221,000 children



Early Childhood Programs

- Minnesota investing \$304 million in 2016-17
 - Up \$120 million over '14-15
- \$1.2 billion in state, federal and local revenues in 16-17
- Largest increases from 2015 & 2016 legislature:
 - **School Readiness**
\$10 million each year to \$33.6 million per year in 2017
 - **Early Learning Scholarship**
\$16 million each year to \$60 million per year in 2017
 - **Voluntary Pre-K**
\$25 million starting in 2017.

Start of Voluntary Pre-K

How did it go?

- 112 MREA districts applied
 - 61% of candidate pool
- 74 districts and charters funded
 - Includes 42 MREA districts
- 43% of dollars and 49% of students are rural
- Expected to be priority of Governor in 2017

Key Questions for 2017

- How much priority is early learning for your district?
- What model will most help your early learners?
- Should MREA lead on Voluntary Pre-K?



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