
Summary of Recommendations

- The Legislature should consider amending *Minn. Stat.* §119A.52 to authorize agencies other than those that received Head Start funding in 1989 to be eligible for innovative grants (p. 35).
- The Legislature should consider amending *Minn. Stat.* §119A.52 to authorize the Department of Children, Families, and Learning to determine a grantee's number of state-funded slots based on its proposed services and the cost per child of those services, rather than based on the federally-set rates per child (p. 37).
- The Legislature should consider increasing the percentage of state Head Start funds allocated on the basis of unmet needs (p. 38).
- The Legislature should consider: (1) allocating state Head Start funding to be used for all eligible children under age six, allowing grantees to determine how to allocate their funding among children of various ages, and (2) broadening the income eligibility guidelines for state-funded Head Start slots (p. 42).
- The Legislature should consider (1) restricting ECFE funding for districts whose reserve fund balances exceed a certain level; (2) eliminating or reducing the minimum funding level in the ECFE law; or (3) allocating a portion of ECFE funding based on the actual number of persons served, not just the size of the eligible population (p. 53).
- The Legislature should consider establishing a reserve fund for School Readiness – similar to that established for ECFE (p. 61).
- The Department of Children, Families, and Learning early childhood program staff should use the data collected through UFARS to monitor districts' ECFE and School Readiness expenditures and programs (p. 62).
- The Department of Children, Families, and Learning should use the data collected through UFARS to monitor districts' ECFE fund balances and work with districts to resolve any problems (p. 64).
- The Department of Children, Families, and Learning should monitor districts' ECFE and School Readiness fee schedules to ensure compliance with state law. The department should also collect accurate information on the total fee revenues actually collected for these programs (p. 64).

- The Department of Children, Families, and Learning should consider the need for additional staff to oversee the ECFE and School Readiness programs – through internal reallocation or through a legislative request (p. 81).
- The Legislature should ask the Department of Children, Families, and Learning to determine the steps and resources that would be required to track the elementary school progress of children who participated in Head Start, School Readiness, or ECFE (p. 83).