



# MAKING MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS INTO OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND SCHOOLS

*Today, House Democrats announced a robust plan to deliver new investments to support students, families, public schools, and school staff. For strong and stable schools, we must continue our commitment to getting our Minnesota students and families the resources they need to recover from the pandemic's fallout now and thrive well into the future.*

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## **Delivering Mental Health Support**

The bill's mental health package, totaling \$475 million, will address shortages of school support personnel to benefit students' social, emotional, and physical health, and fund wrap-around services for students. Our proposal will allow schools to hire more than 1,000 additional counselors, social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and chemical dependency specialists.

## **Filling English Language Learning and Special Education Funding Gaps**

Statewide, the difference between what it costs to provide special education services and what the state pays for those services is more than \$700 million. The deficit in English Language Learner services is nearly \$150 million. The House DFL education proposal provides more than \$500 million annually over the next three fiscal years to significantly reduce the amount school districts pay to make up for these shortfalls.

## **Creating a More Equitable Public Education System**

Democrats' proposal expands opportunities for people of color and Indigenous people to pursue a career in teaching by expanding Grow Your Own Teacher Training Programs, which benefits students of color and Indigenous students who see themselves in their educators. Access to ethnic studies curriculum is included in House DFLers' education proposal. It also improves literacy and encourages schools to utilize non-exclusionary discipline. Data has linked declining graduation rates among Black students to expulsions and suspensions.

## **Investing in our Youngest Learners**

To help close the opportunity gap, Democrats want to create a statewide voluntary prekindergarten program for children who are least likely to have access to early learning. The program is estimated to cost \$525 million from fiscal years 2023-2025.