

Summary of 2025 Regular and First Special Session Laws of Interest to Nonpublic School Leaders, Parents, and Students

Updated 7-31-2025 Prepared for [MINNDEPENDENT](#) by Dr. Barry Sullivan

This **summary** includes selected laws passed by the legislature and signed by the governor from Minnesota's **2025 Regular Session and the First Special Session**. It will be updated as changes occur, including new interpretations and contact links for additional information.

The 94th Minnesota Legislature will be remembered for a tragedy that shocked everyone around the nation, but especially those involved with Minnesota's legislative community. A few days after lawmakers passed major budget and policy bills in a one-day special session, [House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman \(DFL-Brooklyn Park\) and her husband, Mark](#), were fatally shot in their home. Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) and his wife, Yvette, were also shot in their home in a related attack but have survived. Additionally, threats were made against other state legislators. A personal note: I have been summarizing education laws passed by the state legislature for well over 40 years, but this tragic conclusion, with its politically motivated violence, is unparalleled. A reprehensible event in our history. As one long-time legislative staff person told me, "The whole legislative environment here in Minnesota is forever changed."

The internal links below are to major parts of this summary, followed by an overview of selected new laws.

Internal links to key areas of this summary

- [Omnibus K-12 Education Act of the 2025 First Special Session](#)
- [Appropriations for Nonpublic Pupil Aid and Nonpublic Transportation Aid.](#)
- [Other 2025 First Special Session Acts.](#)
- [Selected 2025 Regular Session Acts.](#)
- [Sources for additional information](#)

10—Omnibus K-12 Education Act, First Special Session of 2025 (133 pages).

Key background context faced by lawmakers in the 2025 regular and first special sessions: The February state budget forecast showed a shrinking revenue surplus along with a projected deficit in future years. From *House Session Daily* (June 9, 2025). "The long-awaited \$25.73 billion omnibus K-12 education package increases funding to Minnesota schools by \$4.2 million in the upcoming 2026-27 biennium, while also projecting a \$420 million general education funding reduction in the following biennium, when the state is forecast to have a multi-billion-dollar budgetary shortfall." Key parts of this act include [Appropriations for Nonpublic Pupil Aid and Nonpublic Transportation Aid](#). As reported by [MINNDEPENDENT](#), these two programs were included among proposals for either reductions or elimination as part of many possible cuts to address state funding problems. However, the compromise agreement at the end saved these long-standing programs—see below for details.

Some highlights from this act.

Article 1: General Education. Selected provisions.

This article includes the major funding elements for education, including general education aid for public schools (\$8.5 billion for FY 2026 and \$8.7 billion for FY 2027). Among the many appropriations in this article, two key programs for **nonpublic schools**:

- **Appropriations for Nonpublic Pupil Aid** (Section 28, subd. 11)
\$25,349,000 for FY 2026
\$27,160,000 for FY 2027
- **Appropriations for Nonpublic Pupil Transportation Aid** (Section 28, subd. 12)
\$28,123,000 for FY 2026
\$29,359,000 for FY 2027

As reported by [MINNDEPENDENT](#) during the session, budget proposals had called for the elimination of both the pupil aid and transportation programs, two longstanding funding streams for nonpublic schools. The state faced revenue constraints for both the upcoming 2026-2027 fiscal years as well as more pronounced shortfalls projected in the 2028-29 biennium. But despite the constraints, annual funding for these programs will continue. Historical note: The **nonpublic pupil aid program** (Minnesota Statutes, Sections [123B.40-48](#)) **was established in 1975, and the “equal treatment” transportation law was enacted in 1969** (Minnesota Statutes, Sections [123B.86](#), [123B.87](#)).

See the *Directory of Programs and Policies Affecting Nonpublic Schools* on the [MINNDEPENDENT](#) website for more information about these and many other programs.

Other selected education finance and policy highlights from Chapter [10](#), 2025 First Special Session Law.

- Although often overlooked in general media coverage, the **automatic inflationary adjustment** for education enacted in 2023 was **not changed**, despite the projected revenue challenges in future years.
- **Cuts were made in several programs**, including special education transportation reimbursements (see [special education pupil transportation below](#)); state-paid tuition reimbursement of unfunded charter school special education costs; student support personnel aid; and school library aid. Also, “Teacher Pipeline” programs — Black Men Teach, Grow Your Own, Come Teach in Minnesota — were reduced by almost \$70 million in the 28-29 biennium.
- **An 18-member “Blue Ribbon Commission for Special Education”** is established and tasked with the challenge to identify \$250 million in cuts to special education. If the commission cannot find the \$250 million, funding will be taken from special education cross-subsidy reduction aid (see Article 7 in Chapter [10](#)). **Note:** Minnesota state law ([125A.18](#)) requires services for students with disabilities who are enrolled in **nonpublic schools**

- **Other education working groups** include a compensatory revenue task force that will examine the current compensatory revenue formula for public schools; a seclusion working group that will evaluate and make recommendations regarding the use of seclusion; and a developmental delay age limit working group that will recommend how to increase the age limit for intervention services.
- **The READ Act, established in 2023 laws, is amended** (see Article 4 in Chapter [10](#))
- **Reporting student attendance** provisions are amended, along with changes in reporting absences to county agencies (see Article 1, section 2, in Chapter [10](#))
- **Several amendments are made in charter school law**, including school procurement policies, market need and demand studies, and public performance reviews from authorizers. (see Article 5 in Chapter [10](#)).

Below are additional details on selected provisions within **only some of the 13 articles** in Chapter [10](#), 2025 First Special Session law.

Article 1: General Education. Some selected provisions:

- **Attendance, enrollment, and reporting amendments.** Modifies to whom parents and guardians report regarding “legitimate exemptions” for requested excused absences (section 1); amends laws relating to district duties in reporting attendance (sections 2-4); amends law (120A.24, subdivision 4) relating to a district’s duties about enrollment information [note this statute has long included provisions calling for a superintendent to report to the state about “the total number of **nonpublic** children reported as residing in the district”] (section 3); “Attendance provisions coded elsewhere” (section 4). Note these changes include reference to nonpublic school reporting requirements in [120A.24](#).
- **School Start Date.** For the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years only a school district may begin the school year on or after September 1. Effective the day following final enactment (section 26). [Note this is an exception to the general requirement in [120A.40](#).]
- Amends the [Online Instruction Act \(124D.094\)](#), specifying, through a change in references related to “enrolling district,” that this phrase applies to school districts and charter schools and does **not apply to nonpublic schools** (section 15). 2025 Amendment: “(d) ‘Enrolling district’ means the school district or charter school in which a student is enrolled under section ~~120A.22, subdivision 4~~ 120A.05, subdivision 8, or chapter 124E.” The stricken reference ([120A.22, subd. 4](#)) is to the definition of a “school” in Minnesota, which includes public and nonpublic schools.

For more details on Article 1 changes and school finance changes, see MDE’s [2025 Legislative Session Update](#).

Article 2: Education Excellence. Some selected provisions:

- **Model Programs on Cannabis Use, Substance Abuse.** Requires the commissioner-identified model programs on cannabis use and substance use to also include overdose recognition, prevention, and response (section 3).
- **Amendment to Bullying Prevention Law.** Allows a parent or guardian to designate another individual to be notified of prohibited conduct under the public school **district’s student bullying policy** (section 6). Background note for nonpublic schools: The state’s

bullying statutes, Minnesota Statutes, section [121A.031](#), apply to public schools. But the law also includes a provision calling for the following: “A nonpublic school under section [123B.41, subdivision 9](#), consistent with its school accreditation cycle, is **encouraged** to electronically transmit to the commissioner its antibullying policy, if any, and any summary data on its bullying incidents.

- **Disposing of surplus books.** Allows a school district to dispose of surplus schoolbooks by donating them to a **family of a student residing in the district or a charitable organization** (section 10).
- **Appropriations.** Appropriates funds for educational excellence programs (Section 24). For more details on Article 2 changes, see MDE’s [2025 Legislative Session Update](#), pp. 21-26

Article 3: Teachers. “This article transfers certain programs from the Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) to the Department of Education (MDE); modifies the short-call substitute teacher program, the teacher mentoring program, and the student support personnel aid amounts and uses; and makes other changes.” See the [MN House Research Summary](#) for more details in Article 3. For updates on teacher licensing requirements and recent changes in Minnesota, see [News and Updates](#) at the PELSB website

Article 4: The Read Act. Amends the Read Act, which was originally enacted in 2023. Definitions are modified and clarifications are made in screening and intervention, local literacy requirements, and licensure requirements. See the [MN House Research Summary](#) for more details in Article 4. Also, see MDE’s [2025 Legislative Session Update](#), pp. 30-40. For background information on this program, see [MDE’s READ Act](#) page.

Article 5: Charter Schools. Amends numerous provisions in charter school law, including those relating to school procurement policies, market need and demand studies. Also requires a publication and dissemination of specified information, including performance evaluations of each school. See the [MN House Research Summary](#) for more details in Article 5. Also, see MDE’s [2025 Legislative Session Update](#), pp. 41-45.

Article 7: Special Education. Selected provisions

- **An 18-member “Blue Ribbon Commission for Special Education”** is established and tasked with the challenge to identify \$250 million in cuts to special education. If the commission cannot find the \$250 million, funding will nonetheless be taken from special education cross-subsidy reduction aid (see Article 7 in Chapter [10](#)). **Note:** Minnesota state law ([125A.18](#)) requires services for students with disabilities who are enrolled in **nonpublic schools**
- Lowers the initial reimbursement of **special education pupil transportation aid** expenditures from 100 percent of eligible costs to 95 percent of eligible costs for fiscal year 2026 and 90 percent of the eligible costs for fiscal years 2027 and later. “This will result in a reduction of \$43.2 million in the 2026-27 biennium and \$48.2 million in the 2028-29 biennium,” according to [House Public Information Services](#). The reimbursement

cost for transportation of the homeless and highly mobile students remains at 100 percent of eligible costs.

- Reduces reimbursement of unfunded **charter school special education costs** from ten percent to six percent of the charter school’s unreimbursed costs.
- Establishes a process for **filing complaints** regarding violations of the federal IDEA.
- The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is to establish a working group on the age limit for children receiving special education services for **developmental delay**. The Commissioner of Education must consult with interested organizations before appointing members.
- A **seclusion working group** is established to evaluate the use of seclusion as an emergency procedure and not as discipline. Findings are to be reported by January 30, 2026.

For a detailed review, see the [MN House Research Summary](#) of Article 7. Also, see MDE’s [2025 Legislative Session Update](#), pp. 48-50.

Article 9: Nutrition and Libraries. Selected provisions.

- The additional state funding for **school lunch** (above the amount established by federal rule for free lunch) is reduced from 12.5 cents to 6.25 cents per meal served beginning in fiscal year 2028.
- Reduces **school library aid** to \$10.27 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and to \$9.12 per pupil for fiscal year 2028 and later. Reduces minimum amounts from \$40,000 for a school district and \$20,000 for a charter school, to \$20,000 for a school district and \$10,000 for a charter school beginning in fiscal year 2026.
- Removes electronic, computer, and audiovisual equipment and information technology infrastructure and digital tools from the list of eligible uses of school library aid. Effective for fiscal year 2026 and later.

For a detailed review, see the [MN House Research Summary](#) of Article 9.

Article 10: Early Childhood Education. Selected provisions.

This article amends payment and administration provisions in laws relating to various programs that will now be administered by the new [Department of Children, Youth, and Families \(DCYF\)](#). This includes several programs transferred from MDE and other state agencies to the new DCYF. These include programs available to **all families** in the state, such as Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening, prekindergarten programs, and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). See the *Directory of Programs and Policies Affecting Nonpublic Schools* on the [MINNDEPENDENT](#) website for more information about these and many other programs.

Other Selected 2025 First Special Session Acts

2—Minnesota Care Eligibility Limitations. According to House Research, this act “**Limits MinnesotaCare eligibility to undocumented noncitizens** who are 18 years or older to the number enrolled as of June 15, 2025. Provides that undocumented noncitizens who are 18 years old or older are not eligible for MinnesotaCare beginning January 1, 2026.” See this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 2, 2025 First Spec. Session](#), for a detailed review.

3—Health, Children, and Families Finance Act. This massive (297 pages) package includes

- *Department of Children, Youth, and Families licensing and certification policy provisions (Article 14)
- *Department of Children, Youth, and Families appropriations (Article 22)
- Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Article 10)
- Child Protection and Welfare Finance (Article 11)
- Early care and Learning policy (Article 12)
- Early Care and Learning Finance (Article 13)

For a detailed overview, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 3, 2025 First Special Session](#). * For more on the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families, see their [website](#) and the [implementation process](#).

5—Higher Education Budget and Policy Act. The act comprises two articles. Article 1 appropriates funds for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE), the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnState), and the University of Minnesota system (UMN). Article 2 includes numerous policy provisions affecting the higher education system. For a detailed summary, see this [House Research Summary of Chapter 5, 2025 First Special Session](#). Also, check out the [MN Office of Higher Education](#).

6—Jobs, Labor, and Economic Development. Among the many provisions in this act, some address changes in **Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST)**. According to the MN Department of Labor and Industry,

“Article 5, sections 10-13, make the following changes to the **Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) law**:

- Updates notice requirements when the need for ESST is unforeseeable
- Updates documentation requirements such that an employer may require reasonable documentation when an employee uses earned sick and safe time for more than two consecutive scheduled work days;
- Updates replacement-worker requirements to clarify an employee may voluntarily seek or trade shifts with a replacement worker; and
- Updates requirements related to advancing sick and save time to an employee before accrual by the employee.”

From the [MN Dept. of Labor and Industry’s 2025 legislative session summary](#). Also, see [Earned Sick and Safe Time \(ESST\)](#)

7—Energy. See this detailed [summary from MN House Research of Chapter 7, 2025 First Special Session Law](#).

9—Human Services Omnibus. This major (182 pages) finance and policy act establishes the budget for the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Direct Care and Treatment as well as policy provisions affecting related programs, including the MN Department of Health. For an extensive review, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 9, 2025 First Special Session Law](#).

12—Data Centers.. This act establishes regulations applying to certain data centers regarding permitting, water appropriations, and energy issues, imposes an annual fee, and modifies sales tax exemptions for such facilities. For a detailed review, see [House Research Summary of Chapter 12, 2025 First Special Session](#).

13—Taxes. This major tax package includes changes related to individual income, property, local sales, public finance, and other areas of tax policy. Article 1 includes a provision that repeals language allowing taxpayers to assign a Minnesota education credit to a lender, effective for assignments after December 31, 2025 (Section 20). See this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 13, 2025 First Special Session](#) for an extensive report. Also, see the MN Department of Revenue for [Tax Law Changes](#).

14 - Bonding (Capital Investment). From the MN [House Research Summary of Chapter 14, 2025 First Special Session](#). “This summary explains the capital investment general fund bill, which is part of a capital investment package that includes two bills: one that funds capital projects with state general obligation bonds (Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 15), and one that funds projects with state general fund money (Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 14).” Chapter 14 funds projects with state general fund money. This act includes an appropriation of **\$1,000,000 to the commissioner of education for grants to install “law enforcement entry devices” at schools**. The maximum grant amount per building is \$1,000. Grantees must update their crisis management policies to reflect information about the law enforcement emergency entry devices. "Eligible applicant" is defined as “a special or independent school district, a charter school, or a cooperative unit serving students.” Section 2.

15—Bonding (Capital Investment). Policy and modifications relating to the capital investment package, Chapters 14 and 15. Chapter 15 funds capital projects with state general obligation bonds. A few provisions:

- Article 1 **Appropriations**. For a detailed spreadsheet, see this summary from MN House and Senate Fiscal Analysts: <https://www.house.mn.gov/Fiscal/Home/TrackingSheets>
- Article 2, section 2, creates a **new statewide drinking water contamination program** to be administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Grants will be made to “political subdivisions or capital projects that mitigate hazardous substances in drinking water sources.”
- Article 3, section 14, includes a provision that “exempts a grant to the city of **Redwood Falls under the library construction grants** program from various sustainable building and energy efficiency requirements....Effective retroactively from June 1, 2023.
- Article 3, section 17, adds the construction of the first phase of roof replacement to a capital project appropriation for the Heintz Center at **Rochester Community and Technical College**. Effective the day following final enactment (June 15, 2025). An amendment to a capital project appropriation previously enacted.

For a detailed review, see [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 15, 2025 First Special Session](#).

Selected 2025 Regular Session Acts.

[12](#)—Requires the director of child sex trafficking prevention to submit a program evaluation each odd-numbered year to the legislature as well as (under current law) the Commissioner of Health. Amends Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 145.4718. For more, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 12](#).

[13](#)—Modifies **training requirements** for mandated reporters under the **maltreatment law**. Amends section [260E.065](#) by specifying that for training offered by local welfare agencies to mandated reporters, at least half of the training time must be spent on how to identify signs of child maltreatment or abuse, including the definition of each type of maltreatment under chapter 260E. The act also requires the Commissioner of [Children, Youth, and Families](#) to create trainings with input from professionals who have specialized knowledge related to child maltreatment, including but not limited to medical professionals, attorneys, mental health professionals, and social workers. [MN House Research Summary of 2025 Regular Session Law Chapter 13](#).

Background: [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E, Reporting Maltreatment of Minors](#), establishes a system for reporting possible child maltreatment to government agencies providing protective services for the child. The law requires mandated reporters who suspect maltreatment to file a report within 24 hours. Maltreatment includes physical abuse, neglect, mental injury, and sexual abuse. Individuals engaged in the field of education (i.e., public and **non-public school** employees) are considered mandated reporters and must report. Note that the extensive chapter of law, [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E](#), was amended by other 2025 MN session laws.

[20](#)—**Revisor’s corrections act**. Makes “miscellaneous technical corrections to laws and statutes; correcting erroneous, obsolete, and omitted text and references; removing redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions; making style and form changes.” This includes numerous amendments in the state’s [Education Code](#), affecting education in Minnesota.

[21](#)—**Children, Youth, and Families recodification**. For more information on this new state agency, see [MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#) and [MN DCYF Implementation](#).

[25](#)—**Library Construction Grant Program**. Renames the library construction grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 134.45, after **Mary C. Murphy**, the longest-serving female legislator in Minnesota history. She died in 2024. See the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library’s [website](#) for more information about Mary Murphy. Also, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 25](#).

[27](#)—**Workers’ Compensation** amendments. Recommendations of the Workers’ Compensation Advisory Council. [House Research Act Summary of Chapter 27](#).

[33](#)—**Modifies certain appropriations**, including some related to education programs. Includes adjustments in **special education aids** and an **unemployment aid** for hourly workers over the summer term.

[35](#)—Appropriates funds and amends laws relating to the judiciary, courts, public safety, crime, corrections, data practices, and civil law. For changes in data privacy, see this [2025 Legislative](#)

[Summary regarding Data Practices and Open Meetings](#). [Data Practices Office in the MN Department of Administration](#). Also, see Chapter 39, [State Government Operations](#), below.

36—Legacy appropriations. Appropriates money from outdoor heritage, clean water, parks and trails, and arts and cultural heritage funds. Among the many specified allocations are funds for clean water projects (Article 2), parks and trails (Article 3), and arts and cultural heritage (Article 4).

A sampling of funding projects in the **arts and cultural heritage category (Article 4)** from appropriations to the Minnesota State Arts Board:

- Arts education grants providing opportunities for K-12 students
- Arts and arts access initiatives
- Funds for regional arts councils

Examples of projects from appropriations to the Minnesota Historical Society:

- Statewide historical and cultural grants
- Statewide history programs
- digital library project to preserve, digitize, and share Minnesota images, documents, and historical materials.

Allocations of **\$6,013,000 in the first year and \$6,670,000 in the second year** of the biennium are provided for high-quality, age-appropriate **arts education**.

Appropriations of **\$2,700,000 for each year** of the biennium are provided for Minnesota Department of Education grants to the 12 Minnesota regional library systems to provide educational opportunities in the **arts, history, literary arts, and cultural heritage of Minnesota** (Article 4).

Numerous other projects are funded in this act, including grants from appropriations to the Minnesota Humanities Center

For many more details, see this summary from the [House Research Act Summary of Chapter 36](#).

37—Omnibus Pension and Retirement Act, relating to public retirement programs. Included are provisions affecting those who are, have been, or are interested in public school pension policies and funds, such as the Teacher Retirement Association. This could include former public school educators who now work for nonpublic schools. According to [House Session Daily \(May 19, 2025\)](#), changes include lowering the age at which a member of the Teachers Retirement Association pension plan “becomes eligible for the enhanced early retirement reduction from 62 to 60 and lowering the associated benefit reduction percentage from 6% to 5%. Currently, teachers hired before July 1, 1989, have a career “Rule of 90” (age plus years of service) that provides full pension benefits. Educators hired after that date have no such rule and face significant penalties if they retire and start collecting a pension before age 65.” For details, see this [2025 legislative update](#) from the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association.

38—Relating to **human services programs**. This act includes numerous health and human services policy provisions, including an article relating to “children’s mental health terminology.” Also included are articles addressing “aging and disability services, the Department of Health; direct care and treatment; behavioral health; the Department of Human

Services Inspector General; assertive community treatment and intensive residential treatment services recodification and conforming changes, and miscellaneous other provisions.” For details, see this [House Research summary of chapter 38](#).

39—State Government Operations. Provides funding for the legislature, certain constitutional offices, state agencies, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Humanities Center, certain retirement accounts, and other departments, boards, commissions, and councils. Includes changes in **data privacy laws**, such as those reviewed in this [2025 Legislative Summary regarding Data Practices and Open Meetings](#). [Data Practices Office in the MN Department of Administration](#)

Note that a **new data privacy law goes into effect July 31, 2025**, based on an act passed in 2024: The [Minnesota Consumer Data Privacy Act](#) (MCDPA). This new law, according to the Attorney General, “includes enhanced protections for the **data of children and teenagers**. For children under the age of 16, businesses must obtain permission from a parent or legal guardian before selling their personal data or using their data for targeted advertising.” Also, see this information [link](#).

Sources for additional information

[MN House Research Summary of the K-12 Education Policy and Finance Act, Chapter 10, 2025 First Special Session.](#)

[Act Summaries from MN House Research for 2025 First Special Session Laws.](#)

[Act Summaries from MN House Research for 2025 Regular Session Laws.](#)

[MN Governor’s Office, Bill Tracker](#)

[Minnesota Session Laws, 2025 Regular Session.](#) MN Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

[Minnesota Session Laws, 2025 First Special Session.](#) MN Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

[“Select” New Laws Effective July 1, 2025.](#) MN House of Representatives.

[MSBA 2025 First Special Session Legislative Recap](#)

[Association of Metropolitan School Districts \(AMSD\) 2025 Legislative Session Review](#)

[Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) 2025 Legislative Session Update](#)

“Presentation outlines the 2025 legislative session changes.”

[MN House Session Daily](#)

[Minnesota Senate Offices](#)

[Minnesota Legislative Reference Library](#)

[New laws, new budget take effect July 1, 2025.](#) *MPR* (July 1, 2025)

2026 Regular Session Start Date: February 17, 2026