

Summary of 2026 Minnesota Regular Session Laws of Interest to Nonpublic School Leaders, Parents, and Students

Updated 6-7-2026 Prepared for [MINNDEPENDENT](#) by Dr. Barry Sullivan

This summary includes selected laws passed by the legislature and signed by the governor from Minnesota's 2026 Regular Session. It **will be updated as changes occur**, including new interpretations and contact links for additional information.

Unlike past legislative sessions, an omnibus education bill was not passed this year; instead, education provisions were included in several different bills that were signed into law. The state's biennial budget was set last session (2025); however, many education issues were debated in this "short session," including some relating to nonpublic schools, students, and families. Lawmakers were almost evenly split — 101 DFLers and 100 Republicans. This balance necessitated compromises on both sides to pass bills, leaving many proposals strongly favored by different groups on the sidelines as the session ended. But as the old idiom encouraging perseverance and delayed gratification goes, "wait till next year." The 2027 legislative session is scheduled to begin January 12, 2027!

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New laws of particular interest for nonpublic schools, students, and families
Chapter number (each number is linked to the law) and brief description

Note especially the grants that include **nonpublic schools in 117 and 127**

117—This **education act** includes changes in calculating school district compensatory aid for fiscal year 2027 and increases the session law appropriation for public school general education by an aid entitlement of \$10 million for fiscal year 2027. Among other appropriations, \$4 million was provided for threat reporting system grants to school districts, charter schools, **and nonpublic schools**, and \$1 million to the Department of Public Safety (BCA, for threat assessment investigations). More on the anonymous threat reporting system **grants to schools (including nonpublic)**:

From section 8 of the act, relating to **threat reporting grants**:

Subd. 1 "(b) A school district, charter school, cooperative unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.24 that serves students, Tribal contract school, or **nonpublic school** may apply for a grant in the form and manner specified by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management."

Other provisions of the [117](#) Act include a requirement that **school districts and charter schools adopt policies** to implement the use of an anonymous threat reporting system and submit related reports to the state. Specific requirements are specified in section 3 of the act. For a summary, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 117](#).

Note: [S.F.5000](#), Senator Kunesh's school safety aid and grant program, did not pass this session.

127—Omnibus Health and human services programs, policies, and funding. This extensive act includes **school-linked behavioral health grants** available for **nonpublic schools and students**; provisions relating to the [MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#); amendments to the preschool assessment program; and child care licensing requirements.

Selected Highlights in Chapter **127. School-linked behavioral health grants include nonpublic schools and students**. Article 17, Department of Human Services, Sec. 13, subd. 1, provides funding for school-linked behavioral health grants. Specifically, \$11, 891,000 is provided in FY 2027 for these grants under Minnesota Statutes, section [245.901](#). Grantees must be allowed to use grant funds for partnerships with nonpublic schools or tribal contract schools to provide services to students attending **nonpublic schools** or tribal contract schools and to provide staff professional development activities for schools' licensed and unlicensed staff. This is a one-time appropriation, available until June 30, 2029.

Contact: [MN Department of Human Services \(DHS\)](#). At this DHS site, also see [Grants and RFPs](#)

Other provisions in **127** include:

- **Stabilization funding for HCMC**. Allocates \$205 million in direct stabilization funding for **HCMC** and creates a reserve account of up to \$500 million that HCMC and possibly other hospitals contending with financial burdens due to uncompensated care can draw from until 2031;
- **Health Insurance Costs for Public Schools Study**. Article 14, includes in section 7, *“(b) By July 15, 2026, and July 1 each year thereafter, the Legislative Budget Office must send an annual survey regarding health insurance costs to all school districts and charter schools in the state.”* Extensive details about the items in the survey are set forth. Background news report: [Health Insurance Reform for School Workers](#). MPR (May 24, 2026); and
- Articles within this **act** of special note: Article 9, Children, Youth, and Families Policy; Section 9: Preschool assessment; Article 10, Children, Youth, and Families Budget; Article 12, Child Care Center Licensing and Modernization; Article 13, Family Child Care Licensing Modernization.

Details in the Omnibus Health and Human Services conference committee report are in the [House Session Daily \(May 18, 2026\)](#) story. At this writing, no final summary of this Act, as signed, has been posted. Check this site for updated [Act Summaries](#)

125—Education Policy Provisions. A relatively limited package this year. Comprising three sections, the act includes the following:

- Amends the **“Read Act,”** a program affecting school districts and charter schools. Changes relate to requirements, definitions, accessibility, the local literacy plan, and the ongoing review of literacy materials. Effective the day following final enactment;
- Requires school districts and charter schools to issue high school **diplomas to veterans** who were unable to complete their high school education and who served during the Korean Conflict or during the Vietnam War; and
- Enacts literacy provisions affecting **teacher preparation providers** and the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (**PELSB**). PELSB is to adopt rules regarding the early literacy field experience requirement. Effective July 1, 2026.

A detailed review is at [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 125](#).

108— Student Safety Related Enactments. Key provisions include the following:

- Establishes grooming as a criminal offense;
- Requires law enforcement to notify a licensing board ([Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board](#) or [Board of School Administrators](#)) when a teacher is charged with certain crimes;
- Requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families ([DCYF](#)) to update training for mandatory reporters;
- Clarifies that alleged maltreatment may be investigated even if it occurred more than three years before a maltreatment report; and
- Appropriates money to the commissioner of education to increase the capacity of the [MDE student maltreatment program](#).

For a detailed summary, see the [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 108](#)

Background note: Prior to the changes in this session, [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E](#), the Minnesota Maltreatment of Minors Act, establishes a system for reporting possible child maltreatment to government agencies providing protective services for the child. The law requires **mandated reporters, including those in nonpublic schools**, who suspect maltreatment to file a report. 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.

Also, here is a recent news report regarding the new law: [New Minnesota law makes sexual grooming of children a felony. MPR \(May 28, 2026\)](#).

41—Requires vehicles approaching school buses to stop for flashing red lights. amending Minnesota Statutes, section [169.444, subdivision 1](#). The changes in subdivision 1 include this addition: “(b) *A vehicle approaching a school bus displaying the prewarning flashing amber lights is thereby warned that continued movement is being terminated and that the flashing red lights are about to be exhibited when vehicular traffic must not encroach within 20 feet of the school bus.*” This change “is effective the day following final enactment.” The governor signed the measure on March 27, 2026. Also, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 41](#).

85— Modifies first aid kit requirements on school buses. Requires USDOT numbers for all school buses and authorizes their use on public roads for training purposes. Amends Minnesota Statutes, sections 169.011, subdivision 71; 169.448, subdivision 1; 169.449, by adding a subdivision; 169.454, subdivision 5, by adding a subdivision. For more details, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 85](#).

107—Clarifies education paraprofessional qualifications in relation to federal requirements, affecting school districts and charter school employees. Amends MN Stat. § [121A.642](#), subdivision 4. For a detailed summary, see [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 107](#), which includes this overview: “The Act provides that a paraprofessional who demonstrates the listed competencies must be deemed to have satisfied the federal requirements when the paraprofessional’s employing district or charter school validates the paraprofessional’s demonstration of the competencies. It also requires the department to provide guidance by

August 1, 2026, on ways to validate the competencies.” This change is effective the day following final enactment.

109—Major provisions in this act include:

- Clarifying **paraprofessional qualifications** in MN Statutes [121A.642, subdivision 4](#), which applies to school districts, charter schools, intermediate districts, and other public entities. Specifies that paraprofessionals who demonstrate the competencies listed in this law must be deemed to have satisfied requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 200.58(c) (3)(i), when the employing district or charter school validates the demonstration of competencies. Effective the day following final enactment;
- Providing permanent school fund aid for **Tribal contract schools**;
- Authorizing certain school **district fund transfers**; and
- Making “**forecast adjustments**” for specified state agencies, including the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Note: included in the many adjustments are appropriations for **Nonpublic Pupil Education Aid and Nonpublic Pupil Transportation Aid** (see Article 2, sections 6 and 7).

Background: “Forecast adjustments” are made in many appropriations to align with the February 2026 forecast, which provides the most current estimate of funding needed to fully fund programs under law. According to the [Senate bill summary](#), “Forecasted education appropriation adjustments are typically the result of changes in pupil counts, program participation, or actual costs.”

For a detailed summary, see [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 109](#).

111—**Social Media Platforms; Minor Account Requirements.** Amends provisions in MN Statutes, Chapter [325M](#) by establishing requirements for **social media platforms related to accounts for minors**, including enforcement mechanisms for regulations on child social media accounts. The detailed MN House Research Summary of Chapter 111 includes this overview: “This new law, referred to as Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media or SHASM, requires age estimation and verification by social media platforms and requires parental approval for accounts for users 15 years old and younger. It also requires specific treatment of accounts for children under 16 years of age related to addictive features, paid advertising, and the creation and termination of accounts. This section also creates penalties for violations of these provisions...” [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 111](#).

A related news account: [Walz signs bill enacting social media guardrails for Minnesota children \(May 26, 2026\). Minnesota Reformer.](#)

99—Relating to human rights. includes **disability accommodations** as protection from discrimination. Amends the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, section [363A.02, subdivision 1](#), by this addition:

“(c) Failure to engage in the process to determine if a reasonable accommodation exists that would allow people with disabilities as defined in section 363A.03, subdivision 12, to participate fully in employment, housing and real property, public

accommodations, public services, and education may be an unfair discriminatory practice under this chapter.”

State contact for more information: [Minnesota Human Rights Department](#) 651-539-1100 or 1-800-657-3704 or Info.mdhr@state.mn.us. Also, see this [House Research Summary of Chapter 99](#).

Other new laws of note

Chapter number (each number is linked to the law) and brief description

[49](#)—Modifies educational assistance provisions for **veterans' children and spouses**. For details, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 49](#).

[55](#)—**Elections**. Includes a provision modifying school board procedure for Independent School District No. 535, [Rochester Public Schools](#).

[67](#)—**Safe at Home Program**. Provides protections, remedies, and modifies various provisions of the Safe at Home program, establishing criminal penalties, and coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 5B. **Background:** The Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program is administered by the Secretary of State. Safe at Home provides identity and location protection for those who believe they are in physical danger. **Schools, both private and public**, may be involved in maintaining confidentiality. Participants in the program cannot be required to disclose their addresses. According to the law, “All public and private entities in the state of Minnesota must accept a participant's assigned Safe at Home address (PO Box) as the participant's actual address of residence, **school address**, and address of employment. This requirement is mandated by [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 5B](#). Participants are only required to disclose the school district in which they actually reside, not their specific or full address. **Contact:** See the Secretary of State’s [Safe at Home](#) link or (651) 201-1399 or toll-free 1-866-723-3035; Minnesota Relay Service 711. E-mail: Safe.athome@state.mn.us. At this writing, no final summary of the Act as signed has been posted. Check this site for updated [Act Summaries](#)

[88](#)—**Technical Corrections**. Makes numerous technical changes in state statutes, including several sections within the [Education Code](#).

[92](#)—**New state office of Inspector General**. Establishes an Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the executive branch. The governor will appoint a person to serve as inspector general (IG), subject to supermajority confirmation by the Senate. The OIG will oversee the work of existing agency-based inspectors general and investigate credible allegations of fraud or misuse in programs administered by state agencies. For a detailed summary, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 92](#). Also, here are sample news reports: [Governor Walz signs bill creating Office of Inspector General. KSTP.com](#) (May 14, 2026) and [Minnesota Legislature passes office of inspector general bill aimed at preventing fraud. Minnesota Reformer](#) (May 7, 2026).

[98](#)—Relating to public safety, this law increases the criminal penalty for **impersonating a peace officer** from a misdemeanor to a felony, with a maximum prison sentence of two years;

establishes the crime of impersonating a peace officer while possessing a firearm; specifies certain duties to identify; and makes other changes in law. For details, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 98](#).

103—Worker’s compensation. Adopts the 2026 recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. For a detailed summary, see this [House Research Summary of Chapter 103](#).

104—**Natural Resources**. Appropriates money from the **environment and natural resources trust fund** established under the [Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 14](#). This measure includes amendments to prior allocations and grant requirements. An example: The law provides a total appropriation of \$36,554,000 for **environmental education and outdoor recreation** projects in fiscal year 2027. For more details, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 104](#).

106—Relating to **public employee retirement**, this extensive law makes numerous administrative and technical changes. Refer to your public retirement association for questions, such as the [Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association](#), [St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association](#), and [Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association](#). Note for nonpublic school educators: If part of your career was in a public system, you could be affected by this law even if you are in a private or nonpublic school at this time. For details, contact the specific retirement association.

114—**Proposed amendment to the [Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 8](#)** (“permanent school fund; source; investment; board of investment”). It would modify the investment, management, and distribution policy for the permanent school fund and make related changes in MN statutory sections if the amendment is adopted. The proposed constitutional amendment would permit an amount greater than the annual interest and dividends to be paid from the fund to the school districts and charter schools in the state. Background on Minnesota’s permanent school fund from the [MN Office of School Trust Lands](#). For an excellent overview, see this [MN House Research Summary of Chapter 114](#).

115— Relating to **health occupations**, this law modifies licensing and the scope of practice for numerous occupations. Included are provisions affecting athletic trainer practice (Article 2), social work practice (Article 6), and physical therapy practice (Article 10).

116—**Higher Education Supplemental Funding and Policy**. Included are technical and administrative amendments in statutes administered by the Office of Higher Education, as well as new policy provisions and supplemental appropriations. Here is a summary by [MN House Session Daily \(May 16, 2026\)](#) of the conference committee agreement: “Updates...financial aid programs, includes new fraud-prevention measures, and several provisions aimed at improving transparency and protections for...Most of the agreement consists of administrative and technical changes proposed by the Office of Higher Education, to update language, streamline reporting, and clarify the office’s oversight responsibilities...It would help address an expected shortfall in the [Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants](#) program, providing \$570,000 for the

current fiscal year and \$1.5 million for the upcoming school year, using money from the Workforce Development Fund...The bill would also provide \$3 million in Fiscal Year 2027 to Minnesota State for software to detect and prevent fraud involving so-called ‘ghost students.’” Here is a detailed summary from [MN House Research of Chapter 116](#).

119—State Government 2026 **supplemental state government finance and policy** law. Includes numerous provisions relating to state government operations. Among the provisions are changes in appropriations for specified programs, state government policies, and amendments to laws affecting certain boards. A specific item is the establishment of the **Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park Working Group**, which will submit recommendations to create a new state park honoring former Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark. See this [MN House Research Summary](#) of the House File (4591) for details.

126—**Outdoor Heritage, Legacy Amendment**. Includes Appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund as well as provisions related to the parks and trails fund and the arts and cultural heritage fund. These funds were established by the “**Legacy Amendment**,” passed by voters in 2008. For a detailed description, including the numerous specific allocations, see this [House Research Summary of Chapter 126](#).

128—**Taxes**. This major tax package for 2026 increases “the state property tax refund for homeowners for the tax year 2025 and aligns Minnesota with most federal tax provisions as of May 1, 2026,” according to the MN Department of Revenue. Further guidance will be provided on their [Tax Law Changes webpage](#) and through [email alerts](#). [House Research Summary of Chapter 128](#).

129—**Capital Improvements**. Authorizes spending to acquire and improve land and buildings, and for other capital improvements, with certain conditions. The measure also establishes new programs and modifies existing programs.

130—**Capital Investment (“Bonding Bill”)**. The law includes allocations to the MN Department of Education for library construction grants; special education cooperative facilities (ISD 997-52); Safe Routes to Schools Infrastructure Grants; Early Childhood Capital Grants; and the Lower Sioux Indian Community Dakota Language Immersion School. Other allocations are directed to the University of Minnesota, the Perpich Center for Arts Education, Minnesota State, and Minnesota State Academies. This House Fiscal Analysis table provides details on these and many other allocations in the law: [2026 Bonding Bill Spreadsheet](#). At this writing, no final summary of the Act as signed has been posted. Check this site for updated [Act Summaries](#)

Sources for additional information

- [Act Summaries from MN House Research for 2025 and 2026](#)
- [Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis](#)
- [MN House Session Daily](#)
- [House Public Information Services](#)

- [Minnesota Senate Offices](#)
- [MN Governor's Office, Bill Tracker](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) Legislative Summary Page](#) (the 2026 summary will be added here when completed)
- [Association of Metropolitan School District \(AMSD\) 2026 Legislative Session Review](#)
- [MSBA 2026 Legislative Recap](#)
- [Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board \(PELSB\)](#).
- [Youth and the Law \(April 2026\)](#) MN House Research. Describes Minnesota laws and court cases establishing rights, responsibilities, and protections for youth.

The 2027 Minnesota legislative session is scheduled to begin January 12, 2027. It must conclude by May 17, 2027.