

Full-Day Kindergarten and Preschool Facility Grant Proposals

PRESENTED TO:

Budget Conference Committee
Hon. Holly J. Mitchell, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

- Several Notable Differences Across the Three Plans.** The Governor, Senate, and Assembly plans vary in several important ways, including (1) the amount of funding provided, (2) the rules for grant eligibility, and (3) the share of project costs that would be covered by the state.

Comparing Facility Grant Proposals Under the Three Plans

Issue	Governor	Senate	Assembly
Proposed Funding	\$600 million	\$150 million	\$200 million
Grant Eligibility	Districts converting part-day kindergarten programs to full-day programs.	Low-income districts converting part-day kindergarten programs to full-day programs.	Districts converting part-day kindergarten programs to full-day programs, and districts and county offices of education converting part-day preschool programs to full-day programs.
State Share of Cost	75 percent	75 percent	50 percent for new construction and 60 percent for modernization.
Affects Eligibility for Other State Facility Funding?	Yes	Yes	No
Years to Allocate Funding	3	2	3
Other Provisions	Allows districts with full-day programs to be eligible for funding in third year.	—	Allows districts and county offices of education with full-day programs to be eligible for funding in third year.

- ***Houses Scope the Program Differently.*** The Senate targets the program to low-income districts converting part-day kindergarten programs to full-day programs. In contrast, the Assembly expands the program to include all districts converting part-day kindergarten or part-day State Preschool programs to full-day programs.
- ***Senate Plan Most Closely Aligns With Recent Survey Results.*** Based on a survey we recently conducted, some low-income districts offering part-day kindergarten programs indicated interest in facility grants to convert to full-day programs. The funding amount and eligibility rules in the Senate plan are most closely aligned with these survey results.
- ***Senate Coordinates Program With Existing School Facility Program (SFP).*** Under the Senate plan, facilities constructed through the kindergarten grant program would affect districts' eligibility for state funding under the SFP (the main school facility program). Under the Assembly plan, new facilities constructed through the kindergarten/preschool grant program would not affect SFP eligibility.
- ***Under Assembly Plan, Program Is More Likely to Be Oversubscribed.*** The Assembly adopts broader eligibility rules but provides only \$50 million more than the Senate. This arrangement is more likely to result in the program being oversubscribed. We encourage the committee to consider its funding priorities. For example, it could specify whether kindergarten or preschool facilities would be funded first.