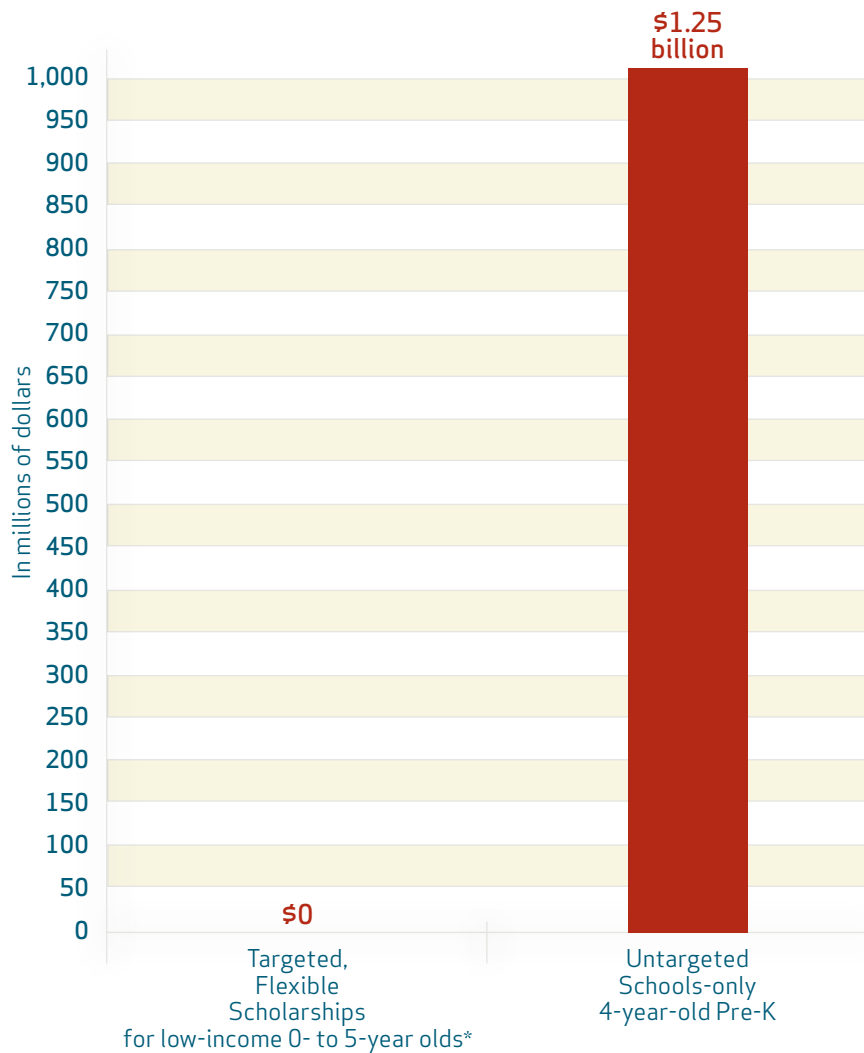


The MDE Proposal: No New Funding For Governor Dayton's Targeted Pre-K Scholarships

New Investments In Pre-K Education
MDE Proposal: FY2016-17 and FY2018-19



What do early education experts think of this MDE proposal? (over)

Governor Dayton Says...

"I'm not wedded to one particular (pre-k) approach versus the other. If the people who know more about early childhood development say we're better off to emphasize early childcare scholarships, I'm open to discussing that."

- Budget briefing, 1-26-15

Experts Say...

"Dayton has had it right with his 2011-2015 models of early education scholarships... So if Minnesota's current early education model isn't broken, why try to "fix it" with a revised schools-only mandate that is much more costly and much less effective?"

Art Rolnick, PhD, Formerly of Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

"The Early Learning Scholarships invested in and championed by Governor Dayton and legislative leaders from both parties in previous years are unique in that they are not only targeted specifically for the highest risk populations, but they empower parents to select from an existing diverse pool of high-quality early childhood providers that meet the often complex needs of their child and family. These scholarships work."

100-organization MinneMinds Coalition

"School-based early education programs should continue to be an important piece of Minnesota's kindergarten-readiness solution, and we're eager to do our part. But enacting a rigid schools-only mandate would be short-sighted. The flexible, targeted, scholarship model that has been in use in Minnesota for several years is a more promising way to close Minnesota's embarrassing education achievement gap."

Karen Cadigan PhD, Bloomington Public Schools Early Childhood Education Specialist and Founding Director of Minnesota's Office of Early Learning

"Scholarships benefit both school-based and non-school-based programs. Scholarships are supported by both Republicans and Democrats, and both business and non-business leaders. And scholarships, while targeted to low-income children, really benefit all income children. That's precisely the kind of "both/and" solution that Minnesota needs."

Todd Otis, Founding CEO Ready4K and Think Small Chief Advancement Officer

"Current funding levels (for early learning scholarships) reach only about 10 percent of Minnesota's eligible children. The Early Learning Council recommends increased funding in order to reach a higher percentage of eligible children and/or fully cover costs of early care and education services for a child receiving a scholarship."

Minnesota Early Learning Council