



Teacher-Governed Grants Appropriation Text

June 2016

On June 1, 2016, Governor Dayton signed HF 2749 into law—a supplementary appropriations bill that included \$500,000 for grants to groups of teachers to design and plan “teacher-governed” schools within school districts. The bill was championed by Education Evolving and a coalition of organizations including the teachers union locals in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Lakeville, and the Center for School Change.

The exact text from [the session law](#) with the appropriation is as follows:

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Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 123B.045, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. Teacher-governed schools; grants. (a) Consistent with subdivision 1 authorizing a school board to agree to assign certain autonomies and responsibilities to a school site, and subject to a memorandum of understanding between the school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers, a grant program is established to encourage licensed teachers employed at a school site to explore and develop organizational models for teaching and learning; provide curriculum and corresponding formative, interim, and summative assessments; measure and evaluate teacher performance; assign teaching positions and restructure instructional work; provide professional development to support teachers restructuring their work; allocate revenue; assert autonomy and leadership; and pursue other such policies, strategies, and activities for creating teacher-governed schools.

(b) The commissioner, after receiving documentation of the approved agreement between the parties under subdivision 1, paragraph (d), shall award grants on a first-come, first-served basis until appropriated funds are expended according to this paragraph:

(1) a planning grant of up to \$50,000 during the first year of the parties' agreement; and

(2) an implementation grant of up to \$100,000 during each of the next two years of the parties' agreement.

(c) A grant recipient that terminates an agreement before the end of a school year must return a pro rata portion of the grant to the commissioner, the amount of which the commissioner must determine based upon the number of school days remaining in the school year after the

agreement is terminated. Grant recipients are encouraged to seek matching funds or in-kind contributions from nonstate sources to supplement the grant awards.

(d) A school district receiving a grant must transmit to the commissioner in an electronic format and post on its Web site by the end of the school year readily accessible information about recommended best practices based on its experience and progress under this section. The commissioner must make information about these recommended best practices readily available to interested districts and schools throughout Minnesota.

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Subd. 9. Teacher-governed school grants. For grants to teacher-governed schools under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.045:

\$500,000 for 2017