



Early Learning Scholarships 2018

Minnesota: State Level Mid-Year

For period of July 1, 2017-December 31, 2017

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Introduction

Early learning scholarships support access to quality early education and care programs for Minnesota's low-income children by bridging funding gaps and decreasing barriers. Early learning scholarships are administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and must be used in programs that are Parent Aware Rated. Parent Aware, administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Service (DHS), is Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Based on research, Parent Aware Star Ratings help families identify programs using the practices that best prepare children for kindergarten. Families can access early learning scholarships in two ways. Pathway I scholarships are awarded directly to eligible children through Regional Administrators. Maximum scholarship amounts vary by star rating, with a maximum of \$7,500 for use in a Four Star Parent Aware rated program and a maximum of \$5,000 in a Three Star Parent Aware Rated Program. Pathway II Scholarships are awarded to children through an eligible Four-Star Parent Aware rated program. In 2017, legislation was passed that extended the eligibility for all Parent Aware participating programs to be eligible for scholarships until July 1, 2020, when the law reverts back to only Three and Four Star rated programs. One and two star rated programs may receive up to \$4,000 and programs in a current rating cohort but not yet rated can receive up to \$3,000.

The information contained in this report is a view of the use of early learning scholarships awarded in Minnesota, mid-year, for state fiscal year 2018, July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. Because scholarship data is collected at a child level, to ensure compliance to Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, due to filtering data, there is limitation to the level of detail at county or regional levels. Additionally, as the Department moves from data being collected regionally by 13 contracted grantees towards the single data source: the Early Learning Scholarships Administrative (ELSA) system, not all reports that will be available are fully functional. The data source for all scholarship tables in this report is ELSA. The wait list data for Pathway I scholarships comes from the 16 Area Administrators and 2 Tribal Administrators. For 2018, the department through an open application process expanded the number of administrators. This report is a summary of state level data.

Scholarships Statewide

This report is the unduplicated count of children at the statewide level who have received a new or renewed scholarship between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. Data was run on January 3, 2018 allowing time for Regional and Scholarship Administrators to enter awards and program selections if applicable. As a child may move Pathways, the Pathway I and Pathway II numbers may include children who have been awarded a single scholarship, but were awarded through one Pathway, award was cancelled, but child was picked up through the other Pathway.

State Totals by Pathway

Count of children at the statewide level, by Pathway, who have received a new or renewed scholarship between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

FY2018	Pathway I	Pathway II	Total
Statewide	5,067	7,034	12,101

Demographics

Age of children as of September 1, 2017, at the statewide level, by Pathway, who have received a new or renewed scholarship in state fiscal year 2018. Children that were kindergarten age eligible on September 1, 2017 were eligible to be awarded or renew their prior scholarship until August 31, 2017.

	Total	<1	1	2	3	4	5*
Pathway I	5,067	367	489	547	1,589	1,936	139
Pathway II	7,034	61	75	101	2,082	4,281	434
Statewide	12,101	428	564	648	3,671	6,217	572

Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity of children at the statewide level, by Pathway, who have received a new or renewed scholarship in state fiscal year 2018.

FY2018	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide Total	% of Children
African American	1,539	30.4%	1,031	14.7%	2,570	21.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	242	4.8%	188	2.7%	430	3.6%
Asian	239	4.7%	342	4.9%	581	4.8%
Hispanic/Latino	420	8.3%	1,107	15.7%	1,527	12.6%

FY2018	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide Total	% of Children
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	11	.2%	20	.3%	31	.3%
Two or More Races	557	11%	443	6.3%	1,000	8.3%
White	1,612	31.8%	1,943	27.6%	3,555	29.4%
Not Answered	447	8.8%	1,960	27.8%	2,407	19.8%
Total	5,067	100%	7,034	100%	12,101	100%

Home Language

Language spoken at home at the statewide level, by Pathway, who have received a new or renewed scholarship in state fiscal year 2018. For those children with a home language indicated, there are 60 different languages spoken statewide, 34 in Pathway I, and 52 in Pathway II. The seven languages with the highest counts and cumulative counts of all other languages are included in the chart.

Home Language	Pathway I	Pathway II	Statewide
English	4,249	4,452	8,701
Spanish	183	762	945
Arabic	20	29	49
Hmong	85	108	193
Oromo, Afan Oromo, Oromiffa	19	46	65
Somali	173	364	537

Home Language	Pathway I	Pathway II	Statewide
Karen	19	68	87
Other Home Language than English	91	174	265
Not Answered	228	1,031	1,259
Total	5,067	7,034	12,101

Special Populations

The chart below indicates the number of scholarships that have been awarded by Pathway and at the statewide level to children in one of four priority populations as indicate in the statute. While children of teen parents currently pursuing a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) have been eligible in priority years from birth until Kindergarten age eligible, eligibility was expanded to include all children from birth to Kindergarten age eligible in all four priority categories.

Special Populations	Pathway I	Pathway II	Total
Children of Teen Parents	77	29	106
Foster Care	608	80	688
In Need of Child Protective Services	50	7	57
Experiencing Homelessness	946	244	1190
Total	1681	360	2041

Special Population by Age

The following charts detail the age of the child, as of September 1, 2017, by priority category.

Special Populations	<1	1	2	3	4	5
Children of Teen Parents	0	21	14	48	21	1
Foster Care	0	93	132	288	158	17
In Need of Child Protective Services	0	8	9	20	21	0
Experiencing Homelessness	1	61	100	471	516	41
Total	1	183	255	827	716	59

How Families Qualified

Families have two options to demonstrate their income eligibility. Option 1 includes submitting documentation that their child is participating in one of the following eight public assistance or publicly funded programs. Families may be benefitting from multiple programs within these options but chart only indicates what program was used for purpose of determining scholarship eligibility. Families that do not document their eligibility through Option 1 may use Option 2 and submit evidence of their household income. To be eligible under this option, families must have income equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines in the current calendar year. Seventy-one percent (71 percent) of scholarships were verified for income using Option 1.

Income Qualifier	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide	% of Children
(CACFP) Child and Adult Care Food Programs	77	1.5%	80	1.1%	157	1.3%
(CCAP) Child Care Assistance Program	659	13%	245	3.5%	904	7.5%

Income Qualifier	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide	% of Children
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	1	0%	4	.1%	5	0%
Foster Care	645	12.7%	57	.8%	702	5.8%
(FRLP) Free & Reduced-Price Lunch Program	611	12.1%	2,979	42.4%	3,590	29.7%
Head Start	331	6.5%	1,255	17.8%	1,586	13.1%
MFIP) MN Family Investment Program	304	6%	119	1.7%	423	3.5%
(SNAP) Food Support	714	14.1%	598	8.5%	1,312	10.8%
Option 2: Income Verified by Evidence	1,725	34%	1,696	24.1%	3,421	28.3%

Where Scholarships Were Used

The following tables represent by program type and Parent Aware Star Rating where children awarded scholarships between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, used their awarded scholarship. This is a duplicated count as children may change programs and Pathway types during their scholarship year.

	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide	% of Children
Not Yet Selected	737	14.54%	0	0%	761	6.29%
Family Child Care	453	16.1%	18	.26%	485	4.01%
Child Care Center	2,698	53.24%	836	11.88%	3,601	29.76%
Tribally Licensed	14	.27%	0	0%	14	.12%

	Pathway I	% of Children	Pathway II	% of Children	Statewide	% of Children
Head Start	350	6.9%%	1,201	17.08%	1,535	12.68%
School Based	816	16.1%	4,979	70.79%	5,705	47.14%

Where Pathway I Scholarships Were Used- Parent Aware Star Rating

	Count	Percent
Not Yet Selected	737	14.48%
In Full Rating Cohort	42	.82%
One Star	17	.34%
Two Star	105	2.06%
Three Star	294	5.77%
Four Star	3,897	76.55%

Programs by Type with Scholarships

For the purpose of scholarships, MDE counts at a program level. School districts and charters and Head Start grantees are considered a program. MDE has grouped child care sites with the same authority as a program for the purpose of this report. Site level counts are the physical location within programs where the child with a scholarship attends. For child care, site ties to a license number, so may be preferred to use site count as opposed to program count for comparisons to other early learning program types. Both program and site data may be duplicates as children may change programs and locations within a scholarship year. Statewide data for program and site is unduplicated.

	Pathway I	Pathway II	Statewide
Family Child Care	196	2	198
Child Care Center	304	6	308
Tribally Licensed	5	0	5
Head Start	6	21	27
School Based	27	280	307

Rated Sites (of a Program) with Scholarships

	Pathway I	Pathway II	Statewide
Family Child Care	196	2	198
Child Care Center	582	155	724
Tribally Licensed	7	0	7
Head Start	60	141	196
School Based	256	486	742

Early Learning Scholarships Pathway I Wait List: December 31, 2017

The following tables reflect the number of children that either applied or were prescreened as eligible for an early learning scholarship but were not awarded by December 31, 2017.

Statewide	Total Wait List
Total Statewide Wait List	1,495