



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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Investing in Minnesota's Children

Laying the Foundation for Our State's Future

The most important investment our state can make is in our children. That is why Governor Dayton's budget invests \$139 million in proven programs that will help Minnesota's children thrive today and in the future.

» **Better Early Education.** The Governor's budget makes crucial investments in preparing children for success in school and narrowing Minnesota's achievement gap.

- **\$40 million for Early Childhood Education Scholarships.** The Governor's budget invests in scholarships that will help up to 11,000 more low-income Minnesota children in high quality childcare and preschool.
- **\$44 Million for All Day Kindergarten.** The Governor's budget invests in optional All Day K, providing access for 85% of Minnesota students – or 54,000 kids.

» **Strong Families.** The Governor's budget supports strong and healthy Minnesota families.

- **\$2 Million in Rental Assistance for Low-Income Families.** The Governor's budget invests in rental assistance and services to allow children to attend the same school without interruption through the school year.
- **\$23 Million for Quality Child Care for Kids with High Needs.** The Governor's budget invests in better rates and an add-on for providers with high quality ratings. The budget also guarantees child care for eligible teen parents.
- **\$2.4 Million to Support Adoption.** The Governor's budget supports permanency for children by streamlining three existing adoption and foster care programs to best serve the interests of children.
- **\$13.7 Million to Improve Employment for Parents.** The Governor's budget invests in cash assistance, home visits for teen parents to increase high school graduation rates, and local services to eliminate racial disparities.

» **Child Health and Safety.** The Governor's budget invests in health and safety of our kids.

- **\$7.4 Million for Mental Health in Schools.** The Governor's budget expands access to mental health services for children with complex, high-cost conditions through increased funding to schools. This proposal doubles the percentage of Minnesota schools providing these services.
- **\$4.5 Million to Reduce Child Maltreatment.** The Governor's budget invests in prevention and early identification of child abuse by expanding proven outreach strategies for high-risk families.