Scholarships Have Bipartisan, Bicameral Support

Over the years, getting sufficient help to the 35,000 low-income Minnesota children under age five who can’t access quality early learning programs has proven challenging. For that reason, it’s important to consider which early learning funding stream has strong bipartisan and bicameral support.

Scholarships Have Bipartisan Support. Since efforts to expand Scholarships began in the 2011 Legislative Session, Minnesota’s Early Learning Scholarships have enjoyed support from both major political parties in both chambers. The following are just some of the leaders who have expressed support for Scholarships over the years (Note: Some of those listed support more than one early ed approach).


- **Overwhelming Bi-partisan Popular Support.** According to a March 2018 Morris Leatherman survey, an overwhelming 84% of Minnesota voters agree that “we should help the children most likely to fall into achievement gaps early in life, to prevent them from falling behind.”

Scholarships Have Bicameral Support. In the 2019 session, the Early Learning Scholarships program was the only early care approach that was included in both the GOP-controlled Senate’s bill and the DFL-controlled House’s bill.

Minnesota has divided government, with a DFL Governor, GOP-controlled House, and DFL-controlled Senate, so polarizing approaches aren’t politically feasible. Uniquely among early learning funding streams, the Scholarships approach has the necessary bipartisan, bicameral appeal to appeal to all three parts of Minnesota government, which is what is necessary to bring desperately needed help to Minnesota’s 35,000 low-income, left-behind children.

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