

Senator Roger Chamberlain
Senate District 38
3225 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 296-1253
sen.roger.chamberlain@senate.mn



Senate

State of Minnesota

House Chair Davnie and House Members of the Education Conference Committee,

Attached is the latest Senate offer dated 5/17/2022. This follows the first offer (Senate) made on 5/12 and the counteroffer (House) made on 5/16.

The Senate bill has a very intense focus on literacy. It is where our entire appropriation is directed, and - now that the schools have been re-opened to in-person learning - it is the primary issue for the future health and well-being of our students.

The House bill (and, similarly, the Governor's proposal) prioritized a buy-down of the special education cross-subsidy. It was - by far - the single greatest budget item put forward by the House.

We also note that education organizations and advocates from across the state consistently rank cross-subsidy reduction as their number one issue.

This is because special education costs can be unpredictable and difficult to budget for, and because reducing the cross-subsidy frees up local general fund dollars which schools can apply to their particular needs (i.e., early childhood, safe schools, student support personnel, etc.).

Now that global spending and tax reduction targets have been reached by House, Senate, and Governor, we are able to accomplish both the Senate and the House top priorities, which is what our attached offer will accomplish.

The Senate 5/17 offer includes:

- The Senate's literacy provisions from HF 4300 (UE).

- The House/Governor literacy provisions for increased and standardized collection of reading data from early learners, more parental involvement, and the specified use of Literacy Incentive Aid to promote scientifically based reading instruction.
- An updated Senate literacy appropriation of \$53.2 million (one-time) to cover LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training for every Minnesota teacher K-8 and to cover literacy support at MDE/Regional Centers of Excellence (\$700,000 per year ongoing).
- A House/Governor literacy appropriation of \$1.2 million per year (ongoing) to implement literacy and dyslexia data collection.
- A special education cross-subsidy reduction appropriation of \$265.6 million in the current biennium and \$676.2 million in the “tails.”

As you are aware, the current cross-subsidy appropriation is covering just over six percent of what the schools spend. The appropriation in the Senate offer will cover nearly 40 percent of the cross-subsidy amount in the upcoming school year and then just over 40 percent in subsequent years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Chertoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senate Chair Chamberlain and Senate Members of the Education Conference Committee