

Dear Fellow School Psychologists:

The House K-12 Education Finance Committee met for the final time this session last Thursday. It was an informational meeting. Outlined was the plan for financing K-12 education in the future, with the State of Minnesota funding the education basics and the local districts using local levies to fund those things desired above the basics. Plans are to bring it back next year for more discussion, including how to fund it.

The House K-12 Education Policy Committee also met for the final time this session on Friday. Items on the agenda were for information purposes only since committee deadlines have long since passed. Two of the items up for discussion were HF 3871 dealing with social and emotional learning standards grants and a presentation by the Department of Education on GRAD exam language arts cut scores. HF 3871 was presented to the committee by the author, Rep. Hosch. Anne McInerney, school social worker, and Dr. Realmunto, child psychiatrist from the University of Minnesota, spoke in favor of the bill. Dr. Effrem from EdWatch spoke strongly against the bill. Christy Hovanetz-Lassila from the Department of Education spoke to the issue of cut scores for the language arts GRAD exam.

The House and Senate K-12 Education Policy Bills have yet to be heard on the respective floors of those two bodies. After they are, the two bills will go to a conference committee for reconciliation. Then it will be back to the House and Senate for passage and then onto the Governor's office.

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