



### **Conference Committee Guidelines**

In a legislative session where COVID-19 precautions have limited the ability for legislators to work in person, upcoming conference committees will also depart from the norm. On Monday, House Speaker Melissa Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka spelled out how conference committees will be held and the expected schedule for the conference committees to follow.

Conferees do not have to meet every day; however, conference committees are expected to meet following a schedule laid out by leadership and will be capped at three hours.

The education finance conference committee is expected to begin meeting on Monday, May 3.

### **Now is the time to act**

As we head into the last weeks of the session, House and Senate Leadership are working out how much funding they will dedicate to schools for the next two years. It is critically important that they hear from you about the importance of investing in our local schools.

Our message is straightforward - invest \$750 million in public schools and link school funding to inflation.

Stable, predictable funding will allow schools to invest in programming and staff to meet the needs of every student. \$750 million in funding will allow for increases in critical areas including:

- Increasing the number of teachers of color and American Indian teachers
- The first increase in English Learner funding in 18 years
- 2% annual increases in basic per-pupil funding
- Continuation of early learning investments in Voluntary Pre-kindergarten
- Increasing access to mental health services and wrap-around supports for students' social and emotional learning needs
- Special education funding to keep pace with cost increases

Please tell your legislators and legislative leaders which investments are important to you and please include the total of \$750 million over current law in your message.

When you contact your local State Senator and Representative, ask them to urge their legislative leaders to agree to a \$750 million budget target for education.

**Call your State Senator and Representative - find your state legislators' contact information [here](#).**

**Contact House and Senate Leadership**

House Speaker Melissa Hortman  
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St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4280  
[rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn](mailto:rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn)

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
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Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113  
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Submit [email form](#)

**House Education Finance Committee hears bill addressing Cruz-Guzman settlement lawsuit**

On Tuesday, the House Education Finance Committee held an informational hearing on [HF2417](#), the bill that embodies components of the Cruz-Guzman settlement lawsuit brought against the state.

Committee members received an update on the status of the lawsuit from Attorney General Keith Ellison and an [overview](#) on the proposed components of a possible settlement by MDE.

The hearing was information only and no action was taken by the committee.