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Yesterday, Gov. Walz released his [2-year budget proposal](#) for the 2022-23 biennium, totaling about \$52 billion. The "COVID-19 Recovery Budget" focuses heavily on his administration's ideas for economic and community recovery. More than half of his budget proposal is dedicated to education funding. In his announcement, Gov. Walz emphasized the following topics:

- supporting small business,
- driving economic recovery,
- ensuring students catch up on learning, and
- supporting working families.

To address the deficit, Gov. Walz's proposal includes a carryover from the current fiscal year, transfers from the budget and stadium reserves and various tax increases to make up for any deficit gap as well as provide for additional spending.

The GOP response to the governor's recommendations made it clear that they would not be supporting the Governor's budget recommendations arguing that increasing taxes does help businesses get back to normal or get students back to school. They made the case that the state should be relying on budget reserves and reducing spending to balance the budget.

The release of the governor's budget recommendations is the first step in the budget process. Over the next several weeks, the House and Senate each will advance their budget priorities as well.

E12 budget recommendations

Overall, the governor recommends an additional \$662 million in spending for the E12 budget, including \$150 million in one-time funding, of which over half is from federal CARES funding.

Major proposals include a per pupil formula increase, pandemic enrollment loss, reducing the ELL cross subsidy, holding steady the special education cross subsidy, initiatives to address learning loss, and continuing funding for VPK/SR+.

Attached is a summary of the budget recommendations. As we digest the budget documents further, this document will be updated to reflect new information.

More details will be made available when these recommendations are introduced as legislation. Detailed spreadsheets and district runs will be available soon.

Due North education plan

Prior to the release of his budget recommendations, Governor Walz unveiled his “[Due North education plan](#)” which is centered on ensuring every child in Minnesota receives a high-quality education. Components of the plan include:

- Meet the needs of Students During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Every Student Receives a World-Class Education
- Every Student Learns in a Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Every Student Learns in a Classroom with Caring and Qualified Teachers
- Expand Access to Opportunities for Students of Color and Indigenous Students
- Expand Access to Opportunities for Students in Greater Minnesota
- Fund a 21st Century Education

Legislative deadlines

To winnow the list of topics to be dealt with each session, the Legislature establishes deadlines for committee action on bills. For the 2021 session, the deadlines are as follows:

March 12, 2021: The first deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills in the house of origin.

March 19, 2021: The second deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house.

April 9, 2021: The third deadline is for committees to act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

Committee updates

House Education Policy Committee: This week the committee heard [HF217](#), a bill the expand the Teacher of Color Act aimed at increasing the number of teachers who are of color or American Indian. The bill passed the committee and will move next to the House Education Finance Committee.

House Education Finance Committee: This week, the committee heard [HF4](#), legislation that includes measures to address challenges faced by school districts, teachers, and students due to COVID. The bill includes provisions to address enrollments decline and time lost due to distance learning and provide support to students. The bill was laid over for consideration for possible inclusion in the House education finance budget bill, which will not advance until later in session.

Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee: This week the committee heard testimony about the impact social media has on student mental health. The committee also heard [legislation](#) to fund Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS).