



STATE of MINNESOTA
Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Historic Investments in Education

Since taking office in 2011, Governor Mark Dayton has invested \$895 million in E-12 education, paid back all the \$2.8 billion previously borrowed from our schools, and frozen tuition or increased financial aid for more than 482,000 Minnesota college students and graduates. These historic investments, and other important reforms, will give Minnesota students the world-class education they need to succeed in school and life, and compete in today's global economy.

Investments in E-12 Education

More Funding for Every School – After a decade of stagnant funding and budget cuts, Governor Dayton reinvested in our schools. In fact, the Governor increased the school funding formula by \$371 million since 2011, providing more funding for every school in the state. These new funds, along with hundreds of millions of dollars in other new E-12 investments, have totaled \$895 million since 2011.

Paying Back the School Shift – Governor Dayton and the DFL Legislature repaid all the \$2.8 billion that was previously borrowed from our schools.

Early Learning Scholarships – Over the last four years, Governor Dayton has invested nearly \$50 million in early learning scholarships that will help 9,000 low- and middle-income students attend quality child care and preschool programs statewide.

All-Day Kindergarten – The Governor invested in all-day Kindergarten beginning this school year, ensuring every Minnesota student has access, free of charge. Previously, some families were paying as much as \$2,500 to \$3,000 to send their kids to all-day Kindergarten programs.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) – Governor Dayton invested in ECFE, allowing more families with young children the opportunity to learn and grow together.

Special Education Reform – The Governor invested in special education reforms that provide better support for special education teachers, eliminate unnecessary paperwork, and created an online system to better-track student data to help kids succeed.

School Nutrition – Governor Dayton invested in school nutrition programs, providing free breakfast for all Kindergartners, and helping ensure no child is denied a healthy lunch in school.

Better Reading – The Governor invested nearly \$157 million to ensure all Minnesota students are reading well by 3rd grade, and to provide one-on-one reading tutoring for kids.

English Language Learning – Governor Dayton invested in English Language Learning programs, providing school districts the flexibility and funding to help every child prepare for success in school.

Teacher and Principal Evaluations – New teacher and principal evaluation systems enacted by the Governor will provide ongoing feedback and professional support to educators to ensure that Minnesota has great teachers in every classroom and great leaders in every school.

Safe and Supportive Schools Act – Governor Dayton strengthened protections against the threat of bullying in Minnesota schools. The new Safe and Supportive Schools Act provides local districts the guidance, support, and flexibility to adopt clear and enforceable school policies to help protect all children from bullying, and to reinforce the principles of tolerance and respect in our schools.

Investments in Higher Education

Tuition Freeze – Governor Dayton froze tuition for students at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU for a period of two years. This helped make college more affordable for 282,000 students.

State Grant Program – The Governor signed into law the largest increase in direction financial student aid in state history, increasing State Grant awards by an average \$295 for 100,000 students, and expanding the program to make an additional 15,000 students eligible for financial aid.

Tax Cuts for Students – Tax cuts signed into law by Governor Dayton last session provided direct tax relief to Minnesota students, including: 1) allowing 285,000 recent college graduates to deduct their student loan interest, saving up to \$190 per year; 2) providing 40,000 college students and parents an average tuition deduction of \$140 per year; and 3) increasing the amount Minnesotans can contribute to Education Savings Accounts from just \$500 previously to as much as \$2,000.

Investments in Higher Education Infrastructure – Since 2011, Governor Dayton has invested \$885 million in improving higher education infrastructure – updating labs, classrooms, and other facilities to ensure Minnesota students have access to world-class learning facilities.

By the Numbers

\$895 million	Governor Dayton has invested \$895 million in E-12 education since 2011
\$2.8 billion	\$2.8 billion previously borrowed from our schools has been repaid in full
\$276 million	\$276 million was invested in higher education in 2012, 2013, and 2014
9,000	9,000 young learners will go to preschool thanks to Early Learning Scholarships
282,000	282,000 students at MnSCU and the U of M benefitted from the tuition freeze
100,000	100,000 college students received an increase in financial aid
\$885 million	\$885 million was invested in improving higher education infrastructure