



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'Étoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Excellent Educations for Minnesota Students

Budget for a Better Minnesota

When Governor Dayton took office in 2011, he promised to increase state investments in public education every year he was Governor; no excuses, no exceptions. Governor Dayton has delivered on that promise, increasing E-12 education investments by nearly \$2 billion, including \$262 million for high-quality early learning programs. These investments are helping to educate the next generation of Minnesota workers for good jobs and bright futures, while supporting economic opportunity for local communities all across our state.

This year, Governor Dayton's Budget for a Better Minnesota would build on those successes, investing an additional \$189.5 million in E-12 education to ensure more students receive excellent educations, everywhere in Minnesota. The Governor's budget would provide \$137.9 million in Emergency School Aid to help prevent budget cuts at Minnesota schools that could result in hundreds of teachers and support staff from being laid off in the coming year. The Governor's budget would also invest in school safety, early learning, special education, world-class higher educations, and more. It would reduce standardized testing, stabilize teacher pensions, and connect more students with stable housing.

Read more about how Governor Dayton's Budget for a Better Minnesota would help students get the world-class educations they need and deserve.

Keeping Students Safe

Policy	Description
Safe and Secure Schools Act	Governor Dayton's Safe and Secure Schools Act includes broadly-supported policies that would improve the safety of our students. The Governor's proposal would increase school funding by \$18 per student, totaling \$15.9 million in 2019, to help school districts and charter schools make needed safety upgrades to school facilities, and provide needed support to students who may pose a danger to themselves or others. The proposal also includes an additional \$5 million for school-based grants that would provide mental health services to students who need additional support. To learn more about how Governor Dayton's Safe and Secure Schools Act would improve the safety of Minnesota students, CLICK HERE . To see a spreadsheet showing how individual school districts and charter schools across Minnesota would benefit, CLICK HERE .

	<p>Governor Dayton also supports a number of legislative proposals that would help reduce gun violence and make it harder for criminals to access guns. Those proposals include requiring criminal background checks for everyone who purchases a gun, restrictions on assault rifle purchases for people younger than 21, public health research to reduce gun violence, clarifying the ban on bump stocks that can turn any gun into an automatic weapon, and measures that would allow family members or law enforcement to ask a judge to temporarily suspend a person’s access to firearms if they pose a serious threat to themselves or others. To learn more about legislative proposals supported by Governor Dayton to reduce gun violence and save lives, CLICK HERE.</p>
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Providing Our Students with Resources to Succeed

Policy	Description
<p>Providing Emergency School Aid to School Districts Facing Budget Deficits</p>	<p>Right now, at least 59 school districts across Minnesota are facing immediate budget deficits that could result in hundreds of teachers and support staff being laid off, along with significant cuts to school programs, in the coming year. That’s why Governor Dayton has proposed \$137.9 million in Emergency School Aid, to provide a one-time funding increase of \$126 per student for every Minnesota school district.</p> <p>From 2003 to 2012, real funding for each student dropped by \$2,000 in Minnesota. Recent investments championed by Governor Dayton have increased funding by more than \$1,000 per student, but that still leaves Minnesota schools forced to do more with roughly \$1,000 less, per student, than they had 15 years ago.</p>
<p>Continuing Early Learning Opportunities for Minnesota Kids</p>	<p>For decades, Minnesota has faced persistent educational achievement gaps among students of color. As Governor, Mark Dayton has been committed to investing in early learning programs aimed at narrowing those achievement gaps, and helping all students get a great start in school and in life.</p> <p>Under Governor Dayton’s leadership, Minnesota has invested \$262 million in early learning opportunities, securing free all-day Kindergarten, investing in Early Learning Scholarships, and beginning to offer free, voluntary preKindergarten to Minnesota families in school districts around the state. This school year alone, nearly 80,000 kids are enrolled in all-day Kindergarten or high quality early learning programs, thanks to those investments.</p> <p>In 2017, Governor Dayton proposed enough permanent funding to ensure every Minnesota child had the option to attend free, school-based preKindergarten. Unfortunately, the Minnesota Legislature only agreed to provide \$50 million in new one-time funding. Approximately 6,100 four-year-olds are now attending free, school-based preKindergarten this year in communities all across Minnesota because of this investment.</p>

	<p>This year, Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would make voluntary preKindergarten funding permanent for schools that already offer it, ensuring thousands more Minnesota four-year-olds are given the opportunity to attend free, school-based preKindergarten in the future. Fifty-nine of the 109 school districts that currently offer voluntary, school-based preKindergarten programs would lose state funding for their programs if the Legislature does not pass the Governor’s proposal; about 4,000 kids would lose out on the great starts they need in school without this funding.</p> <p>To learn more about which school districts and charter schools would lose funding for voluntary preKindergarten if the Legislature does not support the Governor’s proposal, CLICK HERE.</p>
<p>Funding the Help Me Grow Initiative</p>	<p>Governor Dayton’s budget would invest \$1.5 million in the Help Me Grow initiative, which provides critical child development information to parents and childcare providers. The program helps identify young children with developmental and emotional concerns, to connect them with the services they need to succeed in school and life.</p>
<p>Helping Kindergarten Students with Disabilities</p>	<p>All children deserve excellent educations, regardless of background or ability. Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would fix a problem in the school funding formula that currently provides less funding for Kindergarten students with disabilities than their peers. The Governor’s budget would resolve this gap by investing \$153,000 for Kindergarten students with disabilities.</p>
<p>Supporting Special Education</p>	<p>Many Minnesota schools face significant financial burdens that hinder their ability to support all students. Governor Dayton has proposed a \$16.9 million investment in special education funding, to better ensure every student has access to the same great education opportunities, everywhere in the state.</p>
<p>Prioritizing Learning Over Standardized Testing</p>	<p>Governor Dayton has proposed standardized testing reforms to ensure Minnesota students are able to spend more time learning and developing the skills they need for success, and less time taking exams. The Governor’s proposal would decrease the length of standardized exams that can currently take hours of time that would otherwise be devoted to classroom instruction.</p>
<p>Investing in Homework Starts with Home</p>	<p>About 167,000 Minnesota households with children face housing instability. Research shows that homeless and mobile children are more likely to be absent from school, perform worse on math and reading tests, and eventually drop out. The Homework Starts with Home program provides rental assistance to Minnesota families with children to ensure that students have stable housing throughout the school year. This year, Governor’s budget includes \$4 million for the</p>

	Homework Starts with Home program to help find stable housing for an additional 500 families and 1,000 Minnesota kids.
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Making Higher Education More Affordable and Accessible

Policy	Description
Holding Down Tuition at Minnesota State and University of Minnesota Campuses	<p>Under Governor Dayton’s leadership, median student debt for Minnesotans graduating with a bachelor’s degree has dropped 5.4 percent, reversing years of increases. Despite this progress, median student loan debt is still nearly \$26,000, which places a heavy burden on recent graduates, while pricing other would-be students out of higher education.</p> <p>This year, Governor Dayton’s budget would provide \$10 million to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and \$10 million to the University of Minnesota to provide critical operating funds to every college and university and help expand access and opportunity for all Minnesotans. Overall, this additional funding would benefit 375,000 Minnesota State students and help hold tuition flat for 31,500 University of Minnesota students.</p>
\$542 Million for Minnesota’s Public Colleges and Universities	<p>Public college and university infrastructure investments are essential in order to deliver world-class educations for all Minnesota students. This year, Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal would invest \$542 million in public higher education classrooms and facilities statewide. These investments would help ensure that Minnesotans can access high-quality educations no matter where they live. To learn more about how Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal would deliver world class colleges and universities across the state, CLICK HERE. For a full list of which state colleges and universities would receive infrastructure investments under Governor Dayton’s proposal, CLICK HERE.</p>
Helping Minnesotans Finish College and Career Training	<p>Minnesotans who start, but do not finish, college and career training programs often miss out on better economic opportunities and higher wages, while struggling to pay off student loan debt. The Minnesota Reconnect pilot program encourages former college students who have completed a minimum of 15 credits of their college degree or career training program, but did not graduate, to return to school. Minnesota Reconnect provides financial assistance and one-on-one support to help these students complete their educations. Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would provide \$1.4 million to support the ongoing operation of Minnesota Reconnect.</p>
	<p>The Minnesota State Grant Program helps students afford the higher education they need to succeed. Since taking office, Governor</p>

<p>Making College More Affordable for Minnesota Dreamers</p>	<p>Dayton has made major new investments in the State Grant Program. As a result, about 287,000 students have received State Grants to make their higher educations more affordable, and all State Grant recipients have seen increases in their State Grants, averaging \$927. These grants have helped students build better futures for themselves and their families, by making two-year schools, four-year schools, and technical school training programs more affordable.</p> <p>Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would help further extend the promise of higher education to Minnesota Dreamers, many of whom have lived in our state for most of their lives. The Governor’s proposal would invest \$1.1 million to provide additional State Grant assistance to 568 Minnesota Dreamers to fill in for federal Pell Grants they would be eligible to receive, but for their legal status. The average eligible student would receive an average increase of \$2,010 under this proposal to help pay tuition.</p>
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Supporting Minnesota’s Talented Educators

Policy	Description
<p>Protecting the Retirement Savings of Minnesota Teachers and Stabilizing School District Budgets</p>	<p>Pensions are an important component for recruiting and retaining the best teachers for our students. Currently, Minnesota has shortages of licensed teachers, especially in Greater Minnesota. Without action by the Legislature this year, the pensions that teachers rely upon for their retirements will face mounting financial challenges. Governor Dayton’s budget would increase investment in teacher pensions, including \$10.8 million to cover the increases in employer contributions. Strengthening the teacher pension system will help school districts recruit and retain the best teachers, and ensure Minnesota’s talented educators are able to plan for their futures, retire with financial security, and continue contributing to our economy.</p>
<p>Supporting Great Teachers with Quality Compensation</p>	<p>Our kids deserve the very best teachers in their classrooms. The Quality Compensation, or Q Comp, initiative is a voluntary program that allows local school districts to provide pay-for-performance compensation for high-quality teachers. This session, Governor Dayton’s budget would invest an additional \$847,000 in Q Comp to better compensate great teachers in Minnesota classrooms. This investment would fully fund districts that currently participate in the program.</p>

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To learn more about other proposals included in Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota, [CLICK HERE](#).

