EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# SFY 2026 Duluth Independent School District #709

Progress Report

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Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Employment and Training Programs Division

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## Introduction

The direct appropriation grant to Duluth Independent School District (ISD #709) provides funds to implement The Duluth Promise, a collaborative coalition of educational institutions and workforce partners dedicated to addressing the shrinking labor force and skills gap in the Duluth region.

The direct appropriation grant will fund the alignment of educational pathways with industry needs through a gap analysis. The initiative aims to create clear routes to employment for approximately 8,000 students in high-demand fields, starting with healthcare, then expanding into manufacturing and business services.

Funds for this project are appropriated in the Minnesota Session Laws., Special Session – 2025, S.F. 17, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 3(ddd). The amount available to the Duluth ISD 709 for SFY 2026 is $23,750.00. The Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development is permitted to retain up to 5%, or $1,250, of the appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant.

## Summary of Goals and Objectives Presented in the Work Plan

| Strategies for Development of Industry-Aligned Career Services | Outcomes of Strategies for Development of Industry-Aligned Career Services | Estimated date |
|---|---|---|
| Develop Action Plan | Two-year work plan completed | June 2026 |
| Develop and expand Stakeholder Group and Committee systems and processes, including K-12, higher education, workforce development, and employers | Committee structure, materials, meetings, timeline, roles established | June 2027 |
| Develop ongoing fundraising plan, resource planning | Plan completed and outreach meetings conducted | June 2027 |

## Participant Data

Participants Served data is based on approximate Duluth ISD Student Population.

### Demographic Data

**Estimated Number of Participants Expected to Access Industry-Aligned Career Services: 8,000**

| Race/Ethnicity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Hispanic/Latino | 12% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 4% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 7% |
| Black, African American, or African | 12% |
| White | 60% |
| Multiracial or Other | 5% |

| Other Demographics | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Limited English proficient | 10% |
| Low-income (free and reduced lunch) | 40% |
| Participants who report a disability (Special Education enrolled) | 19% |
| Participants showing as Homeless Participant/Runaway | 1.2% |

### Program Services and Activities Data

| Program Service or Activity | Total |
|---|---|
| Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities | 2,302 |

### Outcome Data

| Performance or Outcome | Total |
|---|---|
| Attained Work Readiness Goals or Education Goals | 2,302 |
| Completed Program Objective | 2,302 |
| Increase awareness of career opportunities in the Duluth area and Minnesota | 2,302 |
| Acquire useful career knowledge and skills, preparing them for the workforce | 2,302 |

## Expenditure Data

Expenditures in the table below, from September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, for grants 6DSP6300.

| Budget Category | SFY 2026 Allocation | SFY 2026 Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| Administration | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Direct Services/Software Purchase | $19,000.00 | $8,932.98 |
| Contracted Services | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Support Services | $4,700.00 | $2,430.17 |
| Direct Customer Training | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Total** | **$23,750.00** | **$16,363.15** |

## New Grant Funds

SFY 2026 grant funds are expected to be 100% expended in 2026. A SFY 2027 grant amount of $23,750 is expected to be fully expected by June 30, 2027, the end date of the DEED grant contract.