



# Budget for One Minnesota



## EDUCATION

Our schools, educators, and teachers work hard every single day to give the best education to our students. But we all know they need more. Meeting students' needs starts with stable funding our schools can rely on. With a stable foundation, our schools can add additional support and resources to meet their students' unique needs. We also know that some form of postsecondary education is critical to meeting the needs of today's changing workforce. With college feeling out of reach for too many Minnesotans, we must prioritize programs to increase affordability and access to higher education and training.

Governor Walz is committed to making Minnesota the "Education State." He believes every child deserves a high-quality education, regardless of their race or zip code. The Governor's budget makes a historic investment in schools to close the funding gap and make sure that every child has a good teacher, can receive individual attention, and has access to the materials they need to develop the knowledge and skills to compete in today's economy.

In total, the Budget for One Minnesota represents an investment of \$718 million in additional pre-K through grade 12 education funding over the next two years, and \$159 million in additional funding to support Minnesota's higher education system, including \$47 million in grants to students.

### MAKE HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN K-12 EDUCATION



#### Invest \$521 Million in Students Across Minnesota

The Governor's budget will increase the general education basic formula by three percent in the first year of the biennium, and two percent in the second, for a total new investment of \$521 million. The general funding formula is the biggest source of state aid to schools in Minnesota and impacts every student in the state. It is also the most flexible aid schools receive, allowing them to make local decisions to meet the unique needs of their students. Other financial streams build off the formula, targeting resources to children with additional needs.



#### Prevent Special Education Costs from Rising

As costs for serving students receiving special education services continue to rise, school districts increasingly have to take money from their general fund to cover special education services, called the special education cross subsidy. The average cross subsidy for Minnesota school districts is \$820 per student. By investing \$91 million in

special education, the Governor’s budget stops the current gap from growing and prevents schools from being forced to divert general funding.



### **Keep Preschool Open for 4,000 Four-Year-Olds**

Voluntary prekindergarten funding for 4,000 students in 140 schools across 80 school districts and charter schools is set to expire under current law, and the Governor’s proposal would stop that from happening. Governor Walz proposes investing \$47 million to keep preschool doors open. Free, high-quality preschool programs save families thousands of dollars and studies have shown that preschool participation has impressive and long-lasting benefits for underserved students, including increased high school graduation and employment rates, and decreased incarceration rates. The program is targeted to school districts and charter schools that serve high numbers of underrepresented students and where there may be limited access to other high-quality prekindergarten programs.



### **Improve and Address School Safety**

Students need to feel safe at school in order to learn. Governor Walz’s budget invests \$17 million in school safety to address safety concerns and help schools prevent incidents from occurring. Funds in the school safety levy mean schools have the flexibility to add school counselors, support staff and practices, facility security measures or monitoring systems to meet the unique needs of their buildings and their students.

## **SUPPORT STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE**



### **Restore Funding to Full-Service Community Schools**

Students can’t read if they don’t have the right prescription glasses. They can’t focus if they haven’t eaten. Our students don’t come to us in pieces, and we can’t educate them as if they do. Full-service community schools, located across the state, house practically everything a family needs in one place. With services such as primary health and dental care, job training and classes for adults, and youth development programs, these schools are a hub in their communities. Governor Walz’s budget invests \$8 million for full-service community schools over the next four years, allowing schools to meet the needs of the whole-child to spur academic growth and opportunity.



### **Bolster Support System for Minnesota’s Schools**

Minnesota’s Regional Centers of Excellence provide on-the-ground assistance to districts and schools to create the capacity and conditions that support consistent change. Currently there are regional centers in Marshall, Rochester, Sartell, Fergus Falls, Thief River Falls, and Mountain Iron that support struggling schools through evaluation training and long-term planning. Specialists with expertise areas such as math, reading, special education, English language development, equity, graduation support, implementation, data analysis, school leadership, and district support deliver a wealth of support and services straight to schools to meet their goals. In 2015, the centers were named one of Harvard Ash Center’s

Top 25 Innovations in Government. Governor Walz’s budget invests \$3 million to increase the capacity of the Regional Centers to reach more schools to meet the unique needs of students across the state.



### **Create More Second Chances for Incarcerated Youth**

To better serve our incarcerated youth and those at risk of being failed by adult-driven systems and institutions, the Governor recommends funding a Second Chance Agency Director at the Minnesota Department of Education. The Director will coordinate services between the Minnesota Department of Education, Office of Higher Education, and Department of Corrections to design innovative education and training solutions with a focus on preventing incarceration or recidivism and developing pathways to success.



### **Lift-Up Students Experiencing Homelessness**

Homelessness and housing instability present significant challenges for students and their academic success. Only one in four homeless third-graders demonstrate reading proficiency, a rate that is 37 percent lower than their underserved but housed peers. Governor Walz’s budget adds \$1 million in support for schools to better meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness who are not being covered by federal funding.

## **INVEST IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**



### **Expand and Recruit Quality Teachers of Color**

The Governor’s budget proposes to fund nearly \$8 million new and existing programs designed to attract, prepare, and retain racially diverse, quality teachers in Minnesota’s schools. Over \$3.6 million will go toward student teacher grants, provided by the Office of Higher Education, to support student teachers from underserved families who intend to teach in a shortage area after receiving their teaching license or who belong to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group. Additionally, the budget proposes to allocate \$4 million in grants to create mentoring, induction, and retention incentives for teachers of color.



### **Make Every Student Visible**

Every student in Minnesota must be seen, heard, and valued. This means we must use data-driven decision making to improve student learning. Dedicated staff are needed to support educators, state programs, legislators and stakeholders in understanding, analyzing, and interpreting of education data. The Governor recommends increasing funding to better use data in setting goals, making policy decisions, and improving teaching and learning in the classroom. The Minnesota Department of Education was awarded a five-year federal grant to help fund the development of a data collection system to collect accurate detailed demographic information. While the system will be built primarily using these federal dollars, the Governor’s proposal includes state money to enhance the system in an effort to streamline collection efforts and increase efficiency for districts.



### **Stabilize and Equalize Support for American Indian Tribal Schools**

For too long, American Indian Tribal schools have been left wondering what their next year of funding will entail. Governor Walz’s budget not only stabilizes funding, but equalizes it for the first time, protecting Minnesota students enrolled in Bureau of Indian Education schools from an approximately 50 percent cut in funding and keeping funding levels pegged to the general education formula. In order to better serve American Indian students, the budget will work to ensure they are offered opportunities to succeed. Equalizing and stabilizing funding lays the foundation for continued growth and opportunity for our students.

## **INCREASE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**



### **Help More Students Afford College Through the Minnesota State Grant Program**

Governor Walz’s budget makes higher education more affordable to more students across the state by increasing the state grant program, which provides financial aid for student from low-income, working, and middle-class backgrounds. This aid gives students the choice to pick the college or university that best fits their needs. 81,000 current State Grant recipients will receive an average grant increase of \$285 in the first year to cover tuition and fees, and living and miscellaneous expenses. Over the biennium, 4,460 new grant recipients will become eligible for help with college costs. The State Grant investment, combined with Federal Pell grants, covers the cost of tuition and fees for fulltime students at both Minnesota State 2-year colleges and 4-year universities for students from families making up to \$45,000 a year.



### **Prepare Students for Success at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities**

Governor Walz’s budget supports a high-quality, affordable education at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities with a 4.5 percent increase in base appropriations. Seven four-year universities and thirty two-year community and technical colleges blanket the state, providing Minnesotans with the opportunity to attend college close to home. These colleges play a lead role in career and technical education, helping to meet the changing needs of our workforce. The Capital Investment bill supports infrastructure and campus improvements by funding 100 percent of Minnesota State’s bonding requests.



### **Support Education, Research, and Outreach at the University of Minnesota**

Governor’s Walz’s budget supports a high-quality education at the University of Minnesota with a 3.9 percent increase in base appropriations. This funding enhances the missions of research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service at all five University of Minnesota campuses. Infrastructure at the University of Minnesota is supported through a robust and comprehensive bonding bill.