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Minnesota Office of Higher Education

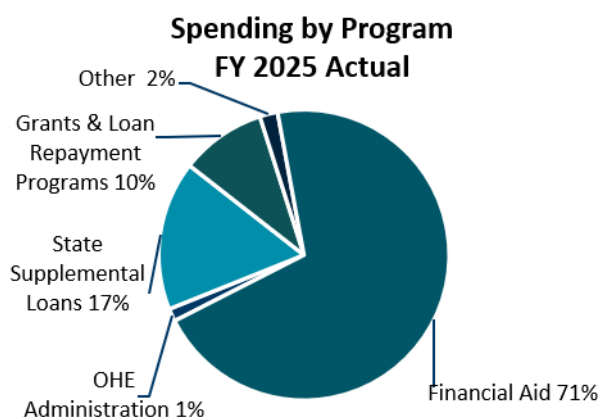
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AT A GLANCE

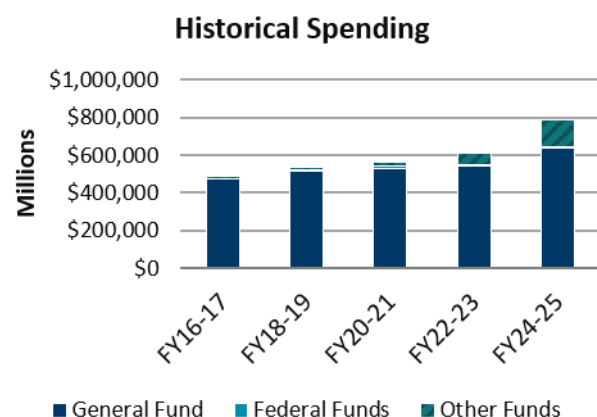
- The Minnesota Office of Higher Education's (OHE) 95 full-time employees efficiently and effectively administer 12 financial aid programs, 20 grant programs, low-interest rate in-school, graduate, and refinance student loan programs, and numerous outreach and access programs – all contributing to the agency's mission of ensuring equitable attainment of higher education for all Minnesotans.
- Administers 12 need-based financial aid programs that disbursed \$371.5 million to students in FY25, including \$222.1 million to 74,526 students through the Minnesota State Grant program.
- Provides low-interest student loans to help students finance their education. In FY26, the Student Educational Loan Fund (SELF) disbursed \$96 million in SELF loans to 6,483 students.
- Administers the Minnesota 529 College Savings Plan - a program that allows families to save for future postsecondary education expenses in tax-advantaged accounts. As of March 31, 2026, the plan included 113,065 active accounts, 62,037 account holders, and \$2.35 billion in assets.
- Provides college readiness programming to 2,900 low-income middle and high school students at 36 schools through the Get Ready program - a federally funded grant program.
- Protects consumers by registering, or exempting from registration, approximately 93 institutions, licenses, or exempts from licensure, 163 institutions.

PURPOSE

OHE's goals are to make postsecondary education accessible and affordable to all Minnesotans and foster best practices to ensure completion. We do this by administering financial aid programs that serve low- to moderate-income students, providing outreach programming to support populations that are historically underrepresented in postsecondary education, and collaborating with higher education institutions who provide high-quality options and are also committed to student success. Data drives our work and is collected and transparently shared to ensure that all stakeholders are clear on the successes and challenges of higher education in Minnesota.

BUDGET

Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The overwhelming majority of OHE's budget comes from general fund appropriations (\$323.8 million in FY2026). These appropriations fund the majority of OHE's programs and activities, including: the state grant program (OHE's largest program), numerous other financial aid programs, as well as competitive grant programs,

and agency operations. Some of the agency's general fund appropriations are transferred to the Special Revenue fund per statutes, including but limited to appropriations for: the North Star Promise Program, the Dual Training Program, and Spinal Cord/Traumatic Brain Injury research. The agency also receives fee revenue that supports its postsecondary licensing and registration functions (\$769,755 in 2026), federal grants that fund the Get Ready and John R. Justice programs (\$4.56 million in 2026). The SELF loan program is self-funded through bond financing activities and student loan repayments.

STRATEGIES

- **Financial Aid Administration:** OHE administers numerous financial aid programs, including the State Grant, North Star Promise, Child Care Grants, Work Study, Minnesota Indian Scholarships and Fostering Independence Grants. We work closely with approved postsecondary institutions to manage and disburse funds to students, which allow them to enroll, persist, and complete postsecondary education.
- **Grant & Loan Repayment Administration:** OHE administers competitive, formula-funded, and legislatively-named grant programs. These programs support health-related research and education, workforce initiatives, institutional support, student support and attainment, vocational and life skills training, and information and resource sharing programs. Grantees include state agencies, political subdivisions, postsecondary institutions, non-profit organizations, tribal nations, and business entities.
- **Postsecondary Access and Outreach:** OHE provides a variety of resources to future students, families, community stakeholders, and institutions of higher education to ensure that all Minnesotans are aware of and have access to quality postsecondary education options. The Get Ready program provides targeted college and career preparation support to participating middle school and high schools that is designed to improve academic preparedness, academic tenacity, college knowledge, and college enrollment rates for low-income students. OHE also provides direct support to campuses through our Sexual Violence/Misconduct Prevention and Response program and partners with high schools and postsecondary institutions to increase college access through the Direct Admissions program.
- **Research and Policy Analysis:** OHE conducts original, independent research to provide lawmakers, educators, community stakeholders, and other policy leaders with objective information about postsecondary enrollment, attainment, finance, financial aid, and accountability. We facilitate sustainability of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Education Data System (ECLDS) and provide leadership and staffing for the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDs), which leverages data from birth/early childhood, K-12 education, postsecondary education, workforce training and employment. SLEDs and ECLDS provide data to inform early care, education, and workforce policy and practice.
- **Consumer Protection:** OHE registers, or exempts from registration, approximately 93 institutions, licenses, or exempts from licensure, 163 institutions, and oversees 66 institutions participating in state authorization reciprocity. We fulfilled over 2,300 transcript requests in FY 26. The division continues to monitor institutions for financial and administrative capability that may result in a closure of colleges in Minnesota to avoid national trends of abrupt closures.
- **SELF Loans:** OHE offers the Student Educational Loan Fund (SELF) program to help students finance their postsecondary education with low-interest loans. The SELF program contributes to the Agency's mission of supporting students in earning a higher education credential by providing low-cost loan funds to attend a postsecondary institution. SELF Loans are not limited to people with certain income levels, and the interest rates are the same for everyone regardless of credit score.
- **Minnesota 529 College Savings Plan:** OHE works closely with the State Board of Investment and our third-party plan manager, Tuition Financing Inc. (TFI), to administer a program allowing families to save for future postsecondary education expenses in tax-advantaged accounts.

M.S. 136A ([Ch. 136A MN Statutes](#)) provides the legal authority for OHE

M.S. 127A.70 Subd.2(b) ([Sec. 127A.70 MN Statutes](#)) provides the legal authority for SLEDs.

Program: Financial Aid
<https://ohe.mn.gov/paying-college>
AT A GLANCE

- Administers 12 need-based financial aid programs and interstate tuition reciprocity, designed to remove financial barriers for students so they can obtain a postsecondary credential.
- In FY2025, the state financial aid programs provided a total of \$371.5 million in financial assistance to Minnesota students, at Minnesota colleges and universities.
- The state's largest need-based aid program, the Minnesota State Grant, awarded \$222.1 million to 74,526 students in FY2025.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Office of Higher Education's Student Financial Aid division supports the agency's mission to make postsecondary education accessible and affordable for all Minnesotans by offering need-based financial aid to low- and middle-income students. Student financial aid programs further support the agency's mission by enabling students to access and choose the postsecondary institution and training provider that best meets their educational needs, regardless of their financial circumstances. Student financial aid programs also enable graduates to serve in particular occupations necessary to maintain the state's economic vitality.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Student Financial Aid division administers numerous programs that support students pursuing postsecondary education and training. The table below provides the most recent data available on each of the programs administered by Student Financial Aid Services. The information may differ from other documents published by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education due to timing or definitional differences. Unless noted otherwise, a student is counted in the Students column only if the student directly benefited from the program, and the dollars shown in the Amount column represent funds paid to students.

Program	Year	Students	Amount	Description
Minnesota State Grant	FY2025	74,526	\$222.1 million	The state's primary need-based aid program, available to eligible Minnesota-resident undergraduate students at public and private institutions.
Postsecondary Child Care Grant	FY2025	1,077	\$6.7 million	Helps eligible low-income student parents offset the cost of existing out-of-pocket childcare expenses for their young children while the student attends classes, works, or studies.
State Work Study	FY2025	6,286	\$10.9 million	Provides funding for part time on-or off-campus jobs for eligible undergraduate, graduate, and vocational students to help students pay the cost of their higher education. Funds allocated to MN colleges to pay 75% of wages for student employment.
Interstate Tuition Reciprocity	FY2025	24,126	\$8.5 million	Waives non-resident tuition rates for MN residents attending public colleges in reciprocity states. Students represents the number of Minnesota students participating in the program. Amount represents the fiscal year expenditure.

Program	Year	Students	Amount	Description
Safety Officers Survivor's Grant	FY2025	5	\$133,108	Non-need-based college grants to survivors of MN public safety officers killed in the line of duty.
Minnesota Indian Scholarship	FY2025	1,055	\$3.6 million	Need-based scholarships to undergraduate and graduate MN resident students who have at least one-quarter American Indian ancestry or are or an enrolled member or citizen of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or Canadian First Nation.
Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants	FY2025	117	\$861,894	Grants to eligible students completing required student teaching experiences who belong to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce.
Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas	FY2025	208	\$1.3 million	Grants to eligible students completing required student teaching experiences who intend to teach in a license shortage area or rural school district.
Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	FY2025	43	\$203,127	Financial assistance to students with intellectual and development disabilities who attend Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary (CTP) programs at eligible Minnesota postsecondary institutions.
Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants	FY2025	704	\$7.9 million	Grants to eligible Minnesota residents who were in the foster care system at any point after their 13 th birthday to cover up to the cost of attendance at any Minnesota public or participating private institution.
North Star Promise	FY2025	90,983	\$109.3 million	Last-dollar grants covering costs up to tuition and fees at public institutions and tribal colleges in Minnesota for eligible students with less than \$80,000 family adjusted gross income. In academic year 2024-2025, students receiving Pell Grants were also considered eligible for a North Star Promise Plus grant, which matches a portion of the student's Pell Grant, as funding allowed.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

The Student Financial Aid division evaluates the outcomes of its strategies and services by determining their impact on student access to, and choice of, higher education institutions by:

- Measuring the number of Minnesota students that apply for financial aid and the number of Minnesota resident students who receive a Minnesota State Grant (see below)
- Assessing the net price students and families pay for postsecondary attendance and its relation to family income. See OHE's Minnesota Measures report <https://ohe.mn.gov/reports/minnesota-measures>
- Monitoring the median cumulative student loan debt of bachelor's degree completers at Minnesota four-year public and private campuses to determine if cumulative debt amounts are stable and monthly loan payments are reasonable. Also, tracking the percentage of students who take out student loans to attend college. See OHE's Cumulative Median Student Loan Debt in Minnesota report <https://ohe.mn.gov/reports/college-graduate-debt>

Applicants for Financial Aid

Measuring the number of Minnesota resident students who receive a State Grant compared to the number of State Grant applicants helps Student Financial Aid Services evaluate the State Grant award calculation. For fiscal year 2025 (academic year 2024-2025), 122,120 students completed the FAFSA or state aid application and met eligibility requirements outlined in state statute to receive a Minnesota State Grant and of those that applied, 74,526 students received a State Grant. These totals include students meeting State Grant eligibility requirements applying via the FAFSA and the alternative aid application. The percentage of applicants receiving a State Grant has remained stable over the last few years.

Measure	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Number of Applications Received	Quantity	FAFSA and Alternative Aid Applications	The most recent peak in applications was in 2019 at 131,983 applications received. In 2023, the application count was 110,199. Recent data shows an increase in the total number of applications.	122,120
Number of State Grant Recipients	Result	MNAid – OHE’s Financial Aid Administration IT Solution.	The number of students receiving a state grant was 67,584 in 2023. In 2025, the number of recipients increased significantly.	74,526
Percent of Applicants Receiving a State Grant	Result	MNAid – OHE’s Financial Aid Administration IT Solution.	The percentages of applicants receiving a State Grant has held at 61% in 2023 and 2025.	61%

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 2025 Expenditures
Need based grants/financial aid.	https://www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost/Program/787	\$371.5 Million

M.S. 13A.121 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.121>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Minnesota State Grant Program.

M.S. 136A.125 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.125>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program.

M.S. 136A.233 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.233>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Minnesota State Work Study Program.

M.S. 136A.08 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.08>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Program.

M.S. 299A.45 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/299A.45>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Survivor’s Grant Program.

M.S. 136A.126 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.126>) provides OHE’s legal authority to administer the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program.

M.S. 136A.1274 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1274>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants.

M.S. 136A.1275 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1275>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas.

M.S. 136A.1215 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1215>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

M.S. 136A.1241 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1241>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants.

M.S.s 136A.1465 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1465>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the North Star Promise.

Program: MN College Savings Program<https://mnsaves.org>**AT A GLANCE**

- Minnesota's version of a qualified tuition program more commonly known as a 529 plan based on Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Minnesota's Plan (known as "mnsaves") opened in 2001.
- The Office of Higher Education (OHE) and the State Board of Investment (SBI) are the two State entities charged with operating the plan. The current plan manager is Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI).
- The State of Minnesota provides no financial support to operate the plan. The compensation for TFI is determined by applying a contractually agreed upon fee percentage against the assets in the plan.
- As of March 31, 2026, the plan included 113,065 active accounts, 62,037 account holders, and \$2.35 billion in assets.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The goal of the 529 plan is to allow individuals to save money for postsecondary education expenses in a tax-advantaged way. The plan is open to all persons regardless of income level, and an account can be opened for a child before the child is born. The funds saved in the account may be used at most colleges and universities across the country, not just those in Minnesota. The goal is that saving in a 529 account will reduce the need for student and parent borrowing in the future. In that way, the plan is an early step in preparing for postsecondary education. The account owner controls the account including which investment options offered by the plan they wish to invest in. The investment options have risk levels that range from very conservative to aggressive.

Over time, the Federal government expanded the allowable uses of the 529 plan funds. Originally intended to cover basic expenses of attending college, the funds may now be used to pay K-12 tuition, student loans, apprenticeship expenses, credentialing expenses, and even to be rolled over into a Roth IRA. There are many requirements and restrictions that a potential account owner must consider, and more information can be found on the mnsaves website (<http://mnsaves.org>).

SERVICES PROVIDED

Mnsaves is a direct sold 529 plan meaning that you do not need to go through a financial advisor to open and manage an account. OHE and SBI have designed the plan to provide a range of investment options while at the same time not overwhelming a potential account owner with too many choices.

TFI staff based in Minnesota will meet with individuals in person or over the phone to answer questions about the plan. TFI staff also reach out to employers across the state to encourage them to allow their employees to use a payroll deduction to automatically deposit funds into their accounts.

OHE has consistently advocated for more outreach to lower income and underserved communities. Studies have shown that even the act of saving something for college can positively impact a child's actual future enrollment. OHE continues to work with TFI to plan how best to reach these populations of people.

The plan offers multiple ways to make contributions including (from above), payroll deduction, auto-debit from bank accounts, checks, and even a gifting platform so that other family members may easily contribute to someone's account.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Total Plan Assets	Quantity	Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) Reports	The Plan's assets have continued to increase over time. For this purpose, we are listing the values from March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2026.	<u>March 2021:</u> \$1.75 billion <u>March 2026:</u> \$2.35 billion
Total Number of Accounts	Quantity	Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) Reports	The number of accounts has continued to increase on a net basis (new accounts opened compared with existing accounts being closed). As above, these numbers come from March 2021 and March 2026.	<u>March 2021:</u> 81,120 <u>March 2026:</u> 113,065
Usage for Allowable Expenses	Result	Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) Reports	The percentages of qualified distributions (any purpose allowed by IRC 529) to total distributions have remained steady. First quarter of 2021 was 96% and the first quarter of 2026 was 97%.	In total, since the beginning of the Plan through April 30, 2026, account owners have taken \$1.93 billion of qualified distributions.

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

Evidence-Based Practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
Early College Planning/529 College Savings Plan	https://catalog.results4america.org/programs/early-college-planning-initiative	

M.S. 136G.01-136G.14 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136G>) provides OHE's legal authority for the Minnesota College Savings Plan.

Program: State Supplemental Loans<https://selfloan.mn.gov/selfloan>**AT A GLANCE**

- Provide low-interest rate Student Educational Loan Fund (SELF) Loans to eligible students to help finance their postsecondary education. Interest rates are the same for all borrowers regardless of their credit score or income.
- 6,483 MN residents or students enrolled in a MN postsecondary institution borrowed \$96.6 million in SELF Loans in FY26. Over 26,000 SELF borrowers currently have loans totaling over \$475 million.
- 200 borrowers currently have student loans refinanced through SELF Refi and owe over \$3 million.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The SELF program supports students in earning a higher education credential by providing low-cost loan funds. SELF Loans are available to all eligible students regardless of income levels. Interest rates are the same for everyone and are not based on credit score. The SELF Grad program was launched for the 2026-27 academic year in response to reduced access to federal graduate loans. The SELF Refi program, which is currently paused due to a change in the loan servicer, is expected to resume accepting new applications by the end of the year.

SERVICES PROVIDED**SELF Loan Program**

The SELF program provides loans to undergraduate students and families to help pay for college. The SELF Loan is available to Minnesota residents attending a participating college nationwide, or to Minnesota residents or nonresidents attending a Minnesota college. The program provides funding to students to cover the cost of attending college beyond what is available through scholarships and grants. Students can choose a fixed or variable rate and select a repayment term of 10, 15, or 20 years. SELF interest rates as of July 1, 2026, range from 5.70% to 6.95%, compared with other private student loans, which can reach 18%. Payments are set at \$15 per month per loan while in school and during a 1-year Transition Period after school.

Student Success Coaching

In addition to low-rate loans, the SELF program is committed to student success. Success Coaching is a free, virtual service available to SELF Loan borrowers that helps students stay focused, motivated, and on track to meet their postsecondary goals. Success coaching provides holistic support for students and is NOT coaching designed to get students to pay back their loans. The Agency recently received the results of a Randomized Controlled Trial, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, on the effects of coaching on student persistence. The results showed the first student cohort nearly doubled their odds of persisting for at least two semesters and increased their odds of persisting for at least three semesters by roughly 59%. The success coaching initiative is significantly contributing to the persistence of students who participate in the free program.

SELF Grad Program

The SELF Grad program provides graduate loans to Minnesota residents attending a participating college nationwide, or to Minnesota residents or nonresidents attending a participating Minnesota college. Students can choose a repayment term of 10, 15, or 20 years. Loans are available without a co-signer if the student meets the

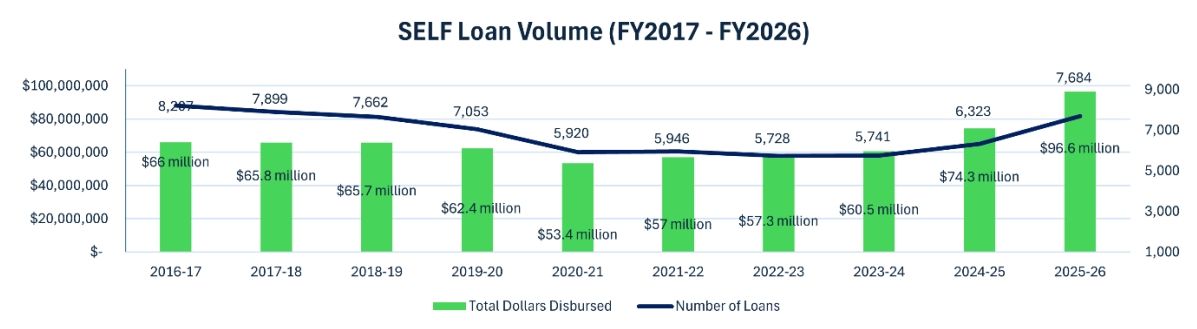
qualification requirements. SELF Grad interest rates as of July 1, 2026, range from 6.00% to 7.95%. Payments are set at \$15 per month per loan while in school and during a 1-year Transition Period after school.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Quantity:

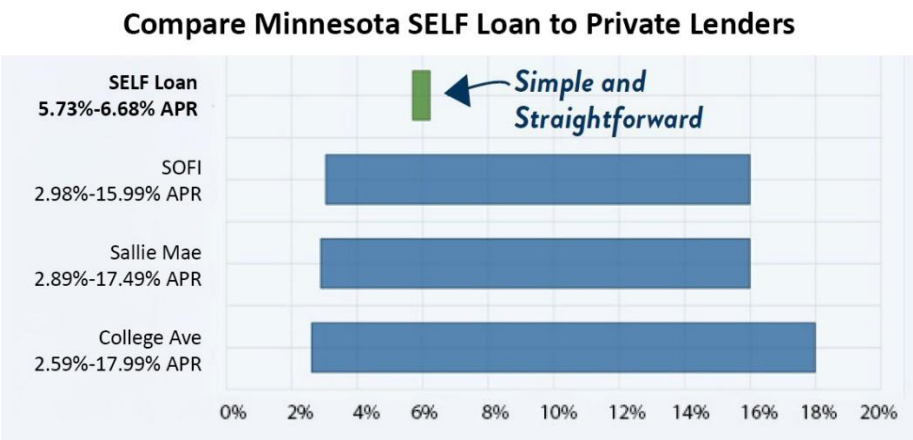
The chart below shows the number of SELF Loans and total dollars disbursed to students from 2016 to 2026. In FY 2026, the SELF program provided 7,684 loans totaling \$96.6M.



Quality:

The chart below illustrates the interest rate uncertainty and high rates that student loan applicants face with private lenders compared to the SELF Loan. SELF rates are straightforward and significantly lower than the top rates offered by private lenders. The lowest rates offered by many private lenders are available to very few people, and little information about actual rates is provided upfront. The specific rate an applicant is offered depends on credit score requirements. In contrast, the SELF applicant selects their rate based on the repayment term and choice of fixed or variable.

APRs in the chart were retrieved from the lenders’ websites on June 11, 2026 for fixed-rate loans while the student is enrolled at least half-time. The ranges contain rates offered for a wide range of credit scores and a variety of repayment options.



The Agency’s SELF Loans are of high quality as reflected by a low default rate. The Agency effectively collects money owed, resulting in a net default rate after collection of less than 3%. Low default rates keep interest rates low for all participating students in the program. Loans not repaid are a program expense.

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
Student Success Coaching – OHE engaged the University of Minnesota to study a postsecondary coaching initiative in Minnesota using a randomized controlled trial.	Elton Mykerezi & Prayash Pathak. The Impact of Coaching on College Student Retention. June 2026	

M.S. 136A.1701 ([Minnesota Office of Revisor website](#)) provides the legal authority for the SELF and SELF Grad programs. M.S. 136A.1704 ([Minnesota Office of Revisor website](#)) provides the legal authority for the SELF Refi program.

Program: Research, Policy, and Analysis<https://ohe.mn.gov/research-data-reports>**AT A GLANCE**

- Provide research and analysis on postsecondary education, college readiness, and postsecondary-workforce alignment for the Governor, the Minnesota Legislature, and the people of the State of Minnesota.
- Use data and projections to guide planning and budgeting for state financial aid programs as well as in planning for future programming, pilots, and initiatives.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Research, Policy, and Analysis division provides credible, politically neutral, research-based data, information and analysis on higher education. Research provided is used to evaluate programs, inform strategic plans, develop and inform state policy, and assist individuals, colleges, communities, and the state with determining effective practices based on data-informed strategies.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provides credible and timely analysis of state higher education enrollment, completions, and funding, including: college preparation and access, financing of higher education (student & state), student outcomes (credentials, debt, employment), and system/institutional performance.
- Leverages data and analysis to guide planning, administering, and budgeting for Minnesota's state financial aid programs (e.g. Minnesota State Grant, North Star Promise, Tuition Reciprocity).
- Leads the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDs) and facilitates interagency work of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS). SLEDs and ECLDS leverage data from birth/early childhood, K-12 education, postsecondary education, workforce training, and employment to assist families, communities, and the state in identifying the most viable pathways for individuals to achieve successful outcomes in education and work. SLEDs and ECLDS informs early care, education, and workforce policy and practice in Minnesota.
- Engages in cross-agency, philanthropic, and non-profit collaboration to broaden resources, data, and information available to Minnesotans.
- Manages collection of student enrollment and completion data from over 200 postsecondary institutions and DEED-approved eligible training providers operating in Minnesota. Administers surveys to institutions regarding sexual assault and financial aid awarded.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure Name	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Unduplicated count of credit students enrollment records for which OHE maintains data	Quantity	Institutional data submitted to OHE	<i>Our office typically receives, cleans, processes, and loads about one million enrollment records per year.</i> 2024: 1,102,795	2025: 1,102,795
Unduplicated count of students graduating for which OHE maintains data	Quantity	Institutional data submitted to OHE	<i>Our office typically receives, cleans, processes, and loads about 100,000 degrees conferred records per year.</i> 2023: 102,029	2024: 105,473
Count of fiscal notes completed to support fiscal analysis of legislative bills	Results	Fiscal Note Tracking System	During a budget year, our team may complete as many as 15 fiscal notes. 2025: 7 fiscal notes.	2026: 12
Count of data requests fulfilled by SLEDs	Results	Data requests submitted to SLEDs governance	Since 2019, the SLEDs team has fulfilled between five and ten data requests per year.	12
Count of reports on higher education policy issue areas produced	Results	Legislatively-mandated Reports Reports and/or Dashboards available on OHE's Data and Reports Library	In the past, our team contributed to the production of 15-20 reports on higher education policy issues in a typical year. For the 2026 legislative session, our team proposed legislation to streamline financial aid reporting from several separate reports with varying due dates into one consolidated financial aid report and dashboard. OHE's Data and Reports Library was created in FY2026.	FY 2026: 40

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

This activity/program cannot be evaluated using randomized control or quasi-experimental design methods

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
OHE Research promotes data-informed decision making by providing data, dashboards, and reports to inform policy decisions, improve services, analyze/evaluate programs, and engage constituents. Studies have shown data-driven decision-making leads to informed strategic planning, improves organizational performance, and increases innovation.	Sylvestre, Chantal & Extension, Kiu Publication. (2024). The Role of Data-Driven Decision Making in Business Strategy. 3. 80-84.	

M.S. 136A.01 Subd. 2(a)(6) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.01>) provides authority for OHE to collect and maintain student enrollment and financial aid data, and report data on students and postsecondary institutions to develop and implement a process to measure and report on the effectiveness of postsecondary institutions.

M.S. 135A.012 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.012>) provides statutory authority for the state's attainment goal and monitoring progress to the goal.

M.S. 127A.70 Subd. 2(b) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/127A.70>) provides statutory authority for the management of SLEDs and ECLDS.

Statutory reporting by the Research Department includes, but is not limited to:

- M.S. 136A.121 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.121>) provides statutory responsibility for data collection, analysis and reporting of postsecondary enrollment, completion, and financial aid.
- M.S. 136.053 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.053>) requires OHE to report on various state financial aid programs administered by OHE.
- M.S. 116J.4011 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/116J.4011>) provides statutory responsibility for collaborative reporting with DEED related to postsecondary employment outcomes of college graduates.
- M.S. 135A.15 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.15>) requires OHE to annually report statistics on sexual assault.
- M.S. 136A.055 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.055>) requires OHE to report annually on developmental education enrollment and completion of recent high school graduates.
- M.S. 136A.08 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.08>) requires OHE to report on students receiving tuition reciprocity.
- M.S. 136A.84 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.84>) requires OHE to report on the Direct Admissions program, including implementation, recommendations, and outcomes of the program.
- M.S. 135A.1581 subdivision 4 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.1581>) requires OHE to report on parenting students including demographics, enrollment patterns, retention and completion rates, cumulative debt and time to completion.

Program: Postsecondary Access and Outreach

Direct Admissions: <https://ohe.mn.gov/outreach-professional-resources/high-school-resources/direct-admissions-minnesota>

Get Ready: [Get Ready GEAR UP Minnesota | MN Office of Higher Education](#)

Minnesota Goes to College: <https://mngoestocollege.mn.gov/mngoestocollege>

SAEP: <https://ohe.mn.gov/student-resources/preparing-college/summer-academic-enrichment-program>

Sexual Violence Prevention: <https://ohe.mn.gov/sexual-harassment-and-violence-prevention-student-resources>

Student and Parent Information: <https://ohe.mn.gov/outreach-professional-resources/high-school-resources/college-preparation-publications>

AT A GLANCE

- Provide information to students and families regarding postsecondary options, how to access state and federal financial aid programs, and paying for college in order to increase college access.
- Administer multiple programs designed to promote college access and postsecondary degree attainment, including the Get Ready program (serving over 2,900 students from 7th to 12th grade) and Direct Admissions (offering proactive admissions to over 47,500 high school seniors).
- Support early college preparation through the Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP) which provided grants to 303 students in grades 3 through 11 in FY25 to attend an academically-enriched summer program.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Office of Higher Education's postsecondary access and outreach functions support the agency's mission of making postsecondary education accessible to all Minnesotans. This work includes providing summer enrichment opportunities to low income students through the Summer Academic Enrichment Program, offering a comprehensive college preparation curriculum and college exploration activities through the federally funded Get Ready program, and providing a nationally recognized proactive admissions model through the Direct Admissions program. The Office of Higher Education (OHE) also ensures that all students and families have access to clear and comprehensive information about college exploration, ways to pay for college, how to access state and federal financial aid, and all of Minnesota's postsecondary options and degrees through the agency's student and parent information program. These efforts, along with the funding to support the Director of Tribal Relations and the work of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response program, are all designed to help close Minnesota's postsecondary attainment gap.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Direct Admissions is Minnesota's proactive postsecondary admissions program that seeks to increase the number of graduating seniors who enroll in college the fall after high school as well as increasing FAFSA completion rates and enrollment rates at Minnesota's colleges and universities. Students receive a personalized email communication and survey in early fall indicating which colleges will admit them so they can reserve their spot.

DIRECTOR TRIBAL RELATIONS – the Director of Tribal Relations is responsible for maintaining Government-to-Government relationships with each Tribal Nation within the exterior boundaries of the state of Minnesota. On an annual basis, coordinate the agency's consultation with each Tribal Nation in compliance with MN Statutes 10.65 and with the Tribal Nations Education Committee as outlined in MN Statutes 136A.032. In addition, engage the larger American Indian community through various agencies, organizations, and partners including the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, and Urban Indian Community organizations. Attend and

participate in Tribal State Relations Training and manage agency staff attendance in compliance with MN Statutes 10.65. Utilize information discussed via consultation and community engagement to direct OHE Senior leadership and staff on development of policy and initiatives that will impact Tribal Nations and American Indian students.

Get Ready serves 6th-12th grade students, their families, and the educators at 19 specifically chosen middle and high schools through the following core interventions:

- Postsecondary Pathways Curriculum: Get Ready's research-based, student-led exploration of personal and social identity, individual skills and interests, learning techniques for academic success, career choices, and options for extending the education process beyond high school. Students receive 25 lessons per year.
- Postsecondary Pathways Counseling: Students receive one-on-one and small group assistance with academic planning, goal setting, exploring college and career options, financing a postsecondary education, and completing the college application process.
- Postsecondary Pathways Field Experiences: Students participate in college visits, job shadowing, internships, service learning, and academic enrichment activities offered in collaboration with Get Ready's community partners.
- Parent Empowerment Initiatives: Parents receive the necessary information, tools, and strategies to support their children during the postsecondary planning process via one-to-one advising, seminars, and culturally specific workshops.
- Professional Development for Educators: School staff receive training and technical support related to postsecondary readiness best practices, effective data utilization, equity mindsets, leading change, and resource management.
- Postsecondary Persistence: Get Ready program staff receive extensive training and certification in holistic coaching methodology to support students' postsecondary transition, persistence, and attainment.

The **Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (SVPR)** program serves as a resource to all postsecondary institutions in Minnesota subject to Minnesota statute 135A.15 by providing professional development and trainings, guidance on best practices, hosting community listening sessions, and providing materials to institutions. The program also provides technical assistance to fulfill the requirements delineated in the Campus Sexual Misconduct Policy (Minnesota Statute 135A.15) as well as oversees the statewide campus sexual assault reporting required under Minnesota Statutes 135A.15.

Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP) – the SAEP program provides funding of up to \$1,000 per participant for students in grades 3 through 11 to attend an academically-enriched summer program. The program seeks to counter the achievement gap and give children from low-income families' access to high-quality summer enrichment experiences that keep exercising their minds and boosting academic performance through participation in challenging enrichment classes in core curricular areas.

Student and Parent Information initiatives provide information to college-bound students and their families through a variety of events, publications, and online resources. This includes publications like *Paying for College: understanding the Costs of College and Choosing a Career Pathway: Exploring Your Options for Success: Find Your Pathway to Success* that give an overview of Minnesota institutions, the programs they offer, the application process for financial aid, and all the different ways to finance one's postsecondary education. The agency also provides:

- Financial Aid and College Knowledge Presentations: The Communications division coordinates outreach presentations to help students and families understand the financial aid process, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the MN Dream Act.

- Presentations are offered as part of Minnesota Goes to College, and recordings are posted to our website. Session recordings are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. All session materials are also available, including presentations and Q&A transcripts.
- In addition to MN Goes to College presentations, the outreach coordinator attends public events to talk about college knowledge and financial aid, including presenting at conferences for high school students and college-access professionals, attending events for high school students and parents, and attending large-scale community outreach events.
- Minnesota Goes to College: Minnesota Goes to College provides high school students with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to understand their college options, plan to pay for college, and apply for and enroll in college. Each school year, participating schools, college access programs, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations plan and host Minnesota Goes to College events for students and families. These events focus on college and career exploration, financial aid information, and application completion.

Financial Aid and College Knowledge Presentations: The Communications division coordinates outreach presentations to help students and families understand the financial aid process, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the MN Alternative State Financial Aid Application.

- **Outreach Videos:** These videos are recorded presentations. They are available in long-form (approximately 25 minutes) and short-form, allowing students and their families to choose the exact topic they would like to learn more about.
- **OHE Spring Metro Region Counselor Convening:** After a few initial years of implementation from a pilot grant, the agency now hosts an annual convening of high school counselors, administrators, and college-access staff from across the state. The format provides topical updates on the higher education landscape, including enrollment trends, financial aid, and anticipated innovations to expect in upcoming years.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
High school participation in the Direct Admission Program Across the State	Quantity	Through the number of executed participation agreements between high schools and Office of Higher Education throughout the state	<u>2023-2024 academic year:</u> 120 of 142 high schools fulfilled the program's deliverable, representing 42 counties across the state (71 of whom were in the 7-county metro area) <u>2024-25 academic year:</u> 182 of 187 high schools fulfilled the program's deliverable, representing 56 counties across the state (100 of whom were in the 7-county metro area) <u>2025-26 academic year:</u> 246 of 257 high schools fulfilled the program's deliverable, representing 61 counties across the state (125 of whom were in the 7-county metro area)	<u>2026-27 academic year projection:</u> Adding 68 high schools (including the largest district in the state, Anoka-Hennepin), bringing the participating cohort to around 320+ total high schools serving approximately 47,889 senior students across 65 counties, slightly over two-thirds of the entire senior class throughout Minnesota.
Participating Direct Admissions' student requests for proactive admission	Quantity	Internal data from student responses to Direct Admissions communication	<u>2023-2024 academic year:</u> The cohort enrolled an estimated 22,505 students, with nearly half of enrolled seniors (43%) at participating schools identifying as Black, Indigenous, and students of color. Over a third of enrolled seniors (36%) were eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Approximately 22% of students in the cohort requested proactive admission. In total, 4,975 students responded, with 34,751 surveys responses having been sent to college partners. <u>2024-25 academic year:</u> The cohort enrolled an estimated 31,172 students, with nearly half of enrolled seniors (44%) at participating schools identifying as Black, Indigenous, and students of color. Over a third of enrolled seniors (36%) were eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Approximately 25% of students in the cohort requested proactive admission through the program. In total, 7,755 students responded, with 50,240 surveys responses having been sent to college partners.	<u>2025-26 program year:</u> The cohort enrolled an estimated 40,395 students, with nearly half of enrolled seniors (44%) at participating schools identifying as Black, Indigenous, and students of color. A third of enrolled seniors (33%) were eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Approximately 14% of students in the cohort requested proactive admission through the program. In total, 4,747 students responded, with 34,772 surveys responses having been sent to college partners.

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Overall comparison of Direct Admissions program participating and non-program participating high schools' college-going behavior	Results	Direct Admissions Agreements and High School lists.	<u>2022-23 pilot year:</u> For students participating in Direct Admissions, 53% were found enrolled in a Minnesota college or university and 77% completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). <u>2023-24 program year:</u> For students participating in Direct Admissions, 54% were found enrolled in a Minnesota college or university and 76% completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).	<u>2024-25 program year:</u> For students participating in Direct Admissions, 53% were found enrolled in a Minnesota college or university and 75% completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Number of SVPR sessions offered	Quantity	Number of attendees from webinar	17 sessions (2022 – 2023) 19 sessions (2023 – 2024) 15 sessions (2024 – 2025)	16 sessions (2025 – 2026)
Participation in SVPR education/training sessions by institutional staff	Quantity	Total number of participants per year	588 participants (2022 – 2023) 779 participants (2023 – 2024) 707 participants (2024 – 2025)	1026 participants (2025 - 2026)
Number of Students who received an SAEP Award	Quantity	SAEP applications awarded	<u>2019:</u> 568 students <u>2020:</u> 133 students <u>2021:</u> 266 students <u>2022:</u> 586 students <u>2023:</u> 935 students <u>2024:</u> 268 students	2025: 303 students
Participants in Minnesota Goes to College counselor trainings	Quantity	Event attendance sign-ins		250 participants (Spring 2026)
Minnesota Goes to College webinars	Quantity	Event attendance sign-ins		2,767 participants (2025-2026 academic year)
Number of students receiving Get Ready services	Quantity	CoBro (Get Ready's database management system)	<u>2023-2024:</u> 2,969 <u>2024-2025:</u> 5,728	2025-2026: 5,543

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No Evidence-based Practices were identified

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
Gear UP – Get Ready	Theory Based – yet to be examined	
Direct Admissions	Theory Based – yet to be examined	

The following links identify state statutes that provide the Office of Higher Education the legal authority to administer these programs:

M.S. 136A.091 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.091>) provides the legal authority for the Summer Academic Enrichment Program.

M.S. 136A.01 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.01>) provides the legal authority for the Get Ready Federal Grant program.

M.S. 136A.84 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2023/cite/136A.84>) provides the legal authority for the Direct Admissions Program.

M.S. 136.01 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.01>) provides the legal authority for the Student and Parent Information initiatives.

M.S. 135A.15 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.15>) provides the legal authority for the Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy initiative.

M.S. 136A.032 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.032>) provides the legal authority for the consultation with the Tribal Nations.

Program: Grants and Loan Repayment Programs

<https://ohe.mn.gov/paying-college/loans/student-loans-and-repayment-options>

<https://ohe.mn.gov/outreach-professional-resources/competitive-grants/competitive-grants>

AT A GLANCE

- Annually operates 9 competitive grants, 11 legislatively-named and formula-funded grants, and 3 student loan repayment programs.
- Administers the innovative Dual Training Grant, a funding source that generates collaborative and strategic educational solutions between employers and related instruction training providers across Minnesota in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industry Pipeline Program.
- Supports cutting-edge research through the Spinal Cord & Traumatic Brain Injury (SCI/TBI) grant and David J. Tomassoni ALS Research Grant programs.
- Works, in partnership with the Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center, to administer Inclusive Higher Education Grants to provide grants to enhance existing or develop new inclusive higher education pathways for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- Collaboratively administers the Student Parent Support Initiative Grant with the Department of Health.
- Supports statewide information and resource sharing programs and services through Minitex and MNLink.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The programs and services within the Office of Higher Education's Grants and Workforce Initiatives Division support the agency's mission by:

- Providing grants to postsecondary institutions and other organizations that support outreach, information sharing, and other support services thus enabling students to access and choose among postsecondary education options
- Providing financial assistance to enable trainees, participants, graduates, and student loan borrowers to serve in particular occupations necessary to maintain the state's economic vitality; and
- Providing financial assistance to postsecondary institutions and other organizations to provide direct support to students to achieve student financial access to postsecondary education.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Addiction Medicine Graduate Medical Education Fellowship provides funds to Hennepin Healthcare for up to six physicians enrolled in an addiction medicine fellowship program.

Agricultural Educator Loan Repayment Program provides student loan repayment assistance to teachers providing agricultural education who agree to serve full-time for 5 years at a Minnesota school.

David J. Tomassoni ALS Research Grant provides grants to support clinical and translational research related to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Dual Training Grant provides grants to employers to train employees through dual training programs in identified occupations in the advanced manufacturing, agriculture, childcare, health care services, information technology, legal cannabis, and transportation industries.

Early Childhood Family Education Teacher Shortage Grants provides grants to postsecondary institutions to address the early childhood and family education teacher shortage.

Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) Grants for Private, Non-profit Postsecondary Institutions and Tribal Colleges provides grants to private, non-profit postsecondary institutions and tribal colleges to provide emergency grants to students to meet immediate student needs that could result in students not completing the term or their program including, but not limited to, emergency housing, food, and transportation.

Hennepin Healthcare Family Residency provides funds for resident physicians in graduate family medical education programs in order to address the shortage of Family Medicine physicians in underserved rural and urban areas of the state.

Hunger Free Campus Grants for Private, Non-profit Postsecondary Institutions and Tribal Colleges provides grants to private, non-profit postsecondary institutions and tribal colleges to support, fulfill, or sustain the Hunger Free Campus related activities including on-campus food pantries and food distributions, hunger awareness events, and outreach to students about eligibility for benefits and programs that address food insecurity.

Inclusive Higher Education Grants provides grants to postsecondary institutions to enhance existing or develop new inclusive higher education pathways established to enable students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to have all the rights, responsibilities, privileges, benefits, and outcomes that result from higher education, including academic growth, career advancement, and improved self-determined living.

Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center provides funds to the U of M Institute on Community Integration to support a center to increase access to self-sustaining postsecondary education options across Minnesota for students with an intellectual disability to earn meaningful credentials through degree, certificate, and nondegree initiatives.

Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP) provides grants to postsecondary institutions, middle and high schools, school districts, and other organizations to provide direct services to students from underserved communities in 6th-12th grade and their first year of college to foster postsecondary attendance and retention.

Federal John R Justice Student Loan Repayment Program provides student loan repayment assistance to public defenders and prosecutors serving in Minnesota who agree to a service obligation of one to three years. This program is funded through a federal grant from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Programs.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program provides funds to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota to provide education debt relief to attorneys with full-time employment providing legal advice or representation to low-income clients or support services for this work.

MNLINK and Minitex provides funds to support library resource sharing and interlibrary loan, support for digital library collections, cooperative library services, and other services.

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP) provides funds for outreach services to historically underserved groups of Minnesota elementary and secondary students through research, planning, and implementation of initiatives to increase the access of Minnesota students of color to Minnesota colleges and universities.

MN Independence College and Community (MICC) provides funds for need-based scholarships and tuition reduction at MN Independence College and Community for Minnesota residents participating in vocational and life skills training programs for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders.

Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program (Large Animal Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program) provides student loan repayment assistance to eligible large animal veterinarians who agree to serve full time in rural areas of the state for five years.

Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury Program provides grants for research into new and innovative treatments and rehabilitative efforts for the functional improvement of people with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. The Office coordinates the administration of this competitive grant program with the Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury Program Advisory Council.

Student Parent Support Initiatives provides grants to Minnesota postsecondary institutions, Tribal Nations, and other organizations to address the needs and support the educational goals of pregnant and parenting college students across Minnesota. In addition, the Office, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, provides health-related supports for community health care providers and other organizations serving pregnant and parenting students as well as technical assistance for postsecondary institutions.

Tribal College Supplemental Grant Assistance provides funds to tribally controlled colleges that are not part of Minnesota State, to support the education of students enrolled at the colleges who are Minnesota resident students.

United Family Practice provides funds for resident physicians in graduate family medical education programs in order to address the shortage of Family Medicine physicians in underserved rural and urban areas of the state.

Use of Force Training Grants provides funds to eligible postsecondary institutions certified to provide programs of professional peace officer education for providing eligible in-service training programs on the use of force, including deadly force, by peace officers.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Number of Dual Trainees completing dual-training programs	Quantity	Completion data reported by Dual Training Grant Grantees	Increasing (225 dual trainees completed dual-training programs in FY2024)	260 dual trainees completed dual-training programs in FY2025
ICAP Grant Utilization Rate	Percent	Grant funds distributed by OHE	Increasing (FY2022-23 ICAP Grant Utilization Rate was 89.6%)	92.3% FY2024-25 Average ICAP Grant Utilization Rate
Number of EAPS and HFC Grantees	Quantity	Grant applications awarded by OHE	Stable (EAPS and HFC grant eligibility restructured starting in FY2026-27)	10 EAPS grantees in FY26-27 9 HFC grantees in FY26-27

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No Evidence-based Practices were identified.

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
Competitive and legislatively named grant programs.	Theory Based – yet to be examined	
Loan Repayment Programs	Theory Based – yet to be examined	

The following links are to statutes or laws providing legal authority to the Office of Higher Education to administer the programs:

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Addiction Medicine Graduate Medical Education Fellowship.

M.S. 136A.1794 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1794>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Agricultural Educator Loan Repayment Program.

2024 Minn. Laws ch. 124 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2024/0/Session+Law/Chapter/124/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the David J. Tomassoni ALS Research Grant.

M.S. 136A.246 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.246>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Dual Training Grant.

2025 Minn. Laws ch. 10 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Early Childhood Family Education Teacher Shortage grant.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) Grants for Private, Non-profit Postsecondary Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Hennepin Healthcare Family Residency.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Hunger Free Campus Grants for Private, Non-profit Postsecondary Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

M.S. 136A.922 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.922>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Inclusive Higher Education Grants.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) and

M.S. 136A.921 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.921>) provide OHE's legal authority to administer the Inclusive Higher Education Grants and Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center.

M.S. 136A.861 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.861>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP).

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the MNLINK and Minitex programs.

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP) program.

2025 Minn. Laws ch. 10 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/10/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the MN Independence College and Community (MICC) program.

M.S. 136A.1795 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1795>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program.

M.S. 136A.901 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.901>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

M.S. 136A.915 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.915>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Student Parent Support Initiatives.

M.S. 136A.1796 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1796>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Tribal College Supplemental Grant Assistance (TCSGA).

2025 Minn. Laws 1st Spec. Sess. ch. 5 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/5/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the United Family Practice program.

2025 Minn. Session Law Serv. Ch. 35 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/0/Session+Law/Chapter/35/>) provides OHE's legal authority to administer the Use of Force Training Grant program.

Program: Institutional Registration and Licensing<https://ohe.mn.gov/licensure-and-registration>**AT A GLANCE**

- Register or exempt from registration 93 postsecondary providers to operate in Minnesota – providing consumer protections for students and their families.
- License or exempt from licensure 163 postsecondary providers to operate in Minnesota – providing consumer protections for students and their families.
- Administer state authorization reciprocity for 66 Minnesota postsecondary institutions to offer distance education in other states- increasing student choice and access without minimal reductions of consumer protections for students and families and reduces enrollment costs for out-of-state students.
- Administer the Workforce Pell institutional approval process, in coordination with the Governor's Workforce Development Board, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the U.S. Department of Education.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

OHE's Licensing & Registration unit protects students by licensing private career schools and registering Minnesota private and out-of-state public and private degree granting institutions. These services contribute to OHE's mission to support Minnesotans pursuing and completing higher education by protecting and informing educational consumers and increasing access to quality credentials that will improve individual quality of life.

Consumer protections include providing minimum standards for institutions and programs, monitoring institutions closely to protect students from school closures, providing transparent guardrails to institutions seeking to educate students and meet market demands, ensuring the maintenance of student transcripts of closed schools, and requiring remediation of inaccurate advertising and marketing material. The unit is also responsible for administering Minnesota's participation in a national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The reciprocity agreement allows Minnesota-based participating institutions to enroll students in 49 states and several territories without the need to meet licensing or registration requirements for those states and increases student choice to an additional 2,600 colleges and universities that offer distance education programs.

In addition, the unit is responsible for responding to transcript requests from former students who attended now closed schools. Transcripts are important to the economic mobility of students as prior credits can be transferred to new programs, employers can require transcripts for employment verification, prior credit information is required for some Minnesota financial aid programs, and transcripts are necessary to apply for a ladder credential, graduate school, or a professional license or certification. In FY26, OHE fulfilled 2,336 transcript requests from students of closed schools in Minnesota.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Regulatory services protect consumers by:

- Ensuring that schools operating in Minnesota or providing education to Minnesotans meet quality standards
- Monitoring school compliance with Minnesota statutes and degree standards
- Monitoring school compliance with the requirements of the national state authorization reciprocity agreement

- Providing information and assisting students to resolve disputes with schools
- Consumer complaints are accepted, reviewed, and investigated by unit staff
- When necessary, OHE assists schools with revision of programs, revisions to, or the closing of, an entire school

By carrying out the statutory requirements of state authorization, the unit is able to track institutions that are at risk of closure and mitigate potential harms to a student that is attending a school at risk of closure, reduce the economic costs and negative outcomes for students when marketing materials include inaccurate or misleading information, and requiring remediation of a school's policy and procedures to correct for actions that were causing harm to students.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of postsecondary institutions registered annually	Quantity	Applications approved by OHE	The number of registered institutions fluctuates based on membership to the national reciprocity agreement. If institutions lose their reciprocity status, they must individually apply for state authorization. Some institutions become authorized under SARA and drop their state authorization status.	<u>Registered Institutions</u> - 77 <u>Registered Exempt Institutions</u> – 16 <u>SARA Institutions</u> - 66
Number of postsecondary institutions licensed annually	Quantity	Applications approved by OHE	The number of licensed institutions fluctuates based on pipeline gaps for technical and trade programs. OHE also sees small-licensed schools opening and closing depending on economic conditions of the state and workforce shortages.	<u>Licensed Institutions</u> - 76 <u>Licensed Exempt Institutions</u> - 62 <u>Limited License Institutions</u> – 25
Number of transcript requests for closed schools	Quantity	Transcript requests submitted to OHE	OHE continues to see an increased number of transcript requests from students. School closures result in increased transcript requests.	2,336

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

This activity/program cannot be evaluated using randomized control or quasi-experimental design methods.

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
Regulation of postsecondary institutions providing protection for students and their families.	Theory Based – yet to be examined	None at this time.

M.S.136A.01 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.01>) provides OHE’s legal authority to license and register private collegiate and career schools.

M.S. 136A.61 to 136A.71 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A>) – Minnesota Private and Out-of-State Public Postsecondary Education Act provides the legal authority for the registration of private degree granting institutions in Minnesota, out-of-state private institutions and out-of-state public institutions that provide classes, programs or degrees to Minnesota residents. This includes programs offered by distance education/online institutions.

M.S. 136A.82 to 136A.833 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A>) – Minnesota Private Career School Act provides the legal authority for the Licensure of non-degree- granting private career schools in Minnesota.

Program: OHE Administration

OHE Financial Statements, Compliance Reports and Disclosures: <https://ohe.mn.gov/financial-statements-and-bond-documentation>

AT A GLANCE

- Provide strategic fiscal leadership, oversight, and support for agency leadership and programs, while managing processes and transactions related to OHE's \$531 million annual budget.
- Manage all litigation for the agency, strategize legal services for each agency unit, train program managers and staff on the code of conduct and data practices policies, and provide direction to program units to ensure the agency is meeting all statutory and regulatory obligations in implementation of its work.
- Support an equitable workforce and inclusive culture for the agency's 95 full time staff through reviewing and updating policies and procedures, promoting training and professional development opportunities, and internal communication and events.
- Audit postsecondary schools that participate in OHE-administered financial aid programs with the goal of ensuring students receive the correct amount of eligible aid.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Agency Administration encompasses several internal operations/divisions of OHE, including Financial Services, Human Resources, General Counsel, and Audit. Financial Services empowers leadership and program staff to achieve agency goals by promoting sound fiscal policy in decision-making while maintaining compliance with state, federal, and grant policies and procedures. Human Resources seeks to recruit and retain an equitable workforce to more effectively serve OHE's customers, employees, and the communities that we serve. General Counsel provides guidance to agency leadership and programming staff regarding legal and compliance issues. The Audit division helps to ensure the appropriate use of state resources by providing training and conducting audits for program recipients.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Oversee and support the agency's financial operations (accounting, budgeting, and purchasing services) to efficiently and effectively utilize public funds while maintaining compliance with policies and procedures.
- Responsible for debt management and compliance for the SELF, SELF GRAD, and SELF REFI student loan programs. Specifically, Financial Services works with financial advisors, legal counsel, rating agencies, underwriters and investors to bring student loan revenue bonds to market and obtain the most favorable interest rates for the programs in order to offer low-cost student loans to Minnesota students and residents.
- Support and manage OHE's employees by promoting an equitable and inclusive workplace and enforcing statewide and departmental human resources, policies, and procedures.
- Support and represent the agency in legal and compliance matters including direct litigation and acting as the agency's key point of contact with the Minnesota Attorney Generals Office.
- Ensure the appropriate use of state resources by providing training and audits for program recipients and reviewing internal controls and perform/assist in risk assessments, both formal and informal.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Material findings in Certified Audited Financial Statements.	Result	Annual Certified Audited Financial Statements for 2019-2025, prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards (GAS).	OHE continues to have strong internal controls in place to address accounting standards per the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). This has resulted in consistent audits with no material findings.	2019 – No findings 2020 – No findings 2021 – No findings 2022 – No findings 2023 – No findings 2024 – No findings 2025 – No findings
Number of student files audited from postsecondary institutions participating in state aid.	Quantity	OHE Audit records	OHE has seen a slight decrease in the number of student files audited from 1,645 in FY24 to 1,553 in FY25.	1,553
SELF Program bond ratings. 2018 Issuance (2018 Senior Series) 2020 Issuance (2020 Senior Series) 2023 Issuance (2023 Senior Series)	Quality	S&P Global Ratings	OHE's bond ratings have remained stable over time.	AA (sf) AA (sf) AA (sf)
Completion Rate of employee Individual Development Plans	Result	OHE HR records	OHE's completion of Individual Development Plans continue to remain stable.	95%

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

This activity/program funds infrastructure/core staffing/operations which cannot be evaluated using randomized control or quasi-experimental design methods

Evidence-based practice	Source	FY 26-27 Expenditures
OHE's administrative appropriation allows the agency to staff and administer, including securing the technological resources necessary, to efficiently and effectively run all programs appropriated by the Legislature. Additionally, it allows the agency to used data-informed decisions making to inform policy decisions, improve services, evaluate programs, and engage constituents.	Sylvestre, Chantal & Extension, Kiu Publication. (2024). The Role of Data-Driven Decision Making in Business Strategy. 3. 80-84.	

M.S 136A.01 ([Minnesota Office of the Revisor website](#)) provides the legal authority for OHE's Administration Services

M.S. 136A.171 to 136A.187 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A>) provide the legal authority for the issuance of student loan revenue bonds.

M.S. 136A.01, Subd. 2. (a)(1) and 136A.1313 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A>) provide the legal authority for OHE's audit functions.