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**Minnesota Office of Higher Education**

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Minnesota Office of Higher Education

AT A GLANCE

• OHE’s 66 full-time employees efficiently and effectively administer over 20 financial aid and grant programs, manage low-interest rate in-school student loan and refinance programs, provide consumer protection by licensing and registering postsecondary institutions, and run numerous outreach and access programs – all contributing to the agency’s mission of supporting the pursuit and completion of a higher education credential by every Minnesotan.

• Minnesota State Grant program, the largest of OHE’s student financial aid programs, provided need-based financial aid to 79,805 students and awarded $208M in FY2019.

• Student Education Loan Fund (SELF) disbursed $65.7M in low interest loans to 7,662 low-income students in 2018-19.

• Protects consumers by registering and licensing 178 post-secondary institutions in the state of Minnesota and overseeing approximately 110 schools that disburse state aid and loan funds.

• Minnesota Indian Scholarship served 879 students and awarded $2.86M in FY2019.

• Published original research on postsecondary education, state student financial aid programs, student financing issues, retention, and completion.

• The Get Ready program is a college readiness program, funded by a federal grant of $3.46M per year, and targeted to low-income students.

• Minnesota 529 College Savings Plan supports 72,774 active accounts, 41,194 account holders, and $1.6B in assets.

PURPOSE

The mission of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) is to support the pursuit and completion of a higher education credential by every Minnesotan, regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic status, in order to enhance our democracy, the State’s economic vitality, and individual quality of life. Our goals are to make postsecondary education accessible and affordable to all Minnesotans and foster best practices to ensure completion. Our financial aid programs serve low- to moderate-income people. Our outreach programs target populations that are historically underrepresented in postsecondary education. We work closely with the legislature, postsecondary institutions, foundations, and the federal government.

BUDGET

Source: Budget Planning & Analysis (BPAS)

Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

"Other Funds" includes the Office of Higher Education fund, which is not in the consolidated fund statement
STRATEGIES

- **Financial aid administration:** OHE administers numerous financial aid programs, including the State Grant, Child Care Grants, Work Study, American Indian Scholarships, Occupational Scholarships, Dual Training, and the SELF Loan Program. We work closely with approved postsecondary institutions to manage and disburse funds to students, which allow them to enroll, persist, and complete postsecondary education.

- **Policy and research activities:** We conduct original, independent research to provide lawmakers, educators, and other policy leaders with objective information about postsecondary enrollment, attainment, finance, and accountability. We provide leadership and staffing for the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) and facilitate sustainability of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Education Data System (ECLDS), which leverage 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 in Minnesota.

- **Consumer protection:** We register or license approximately 178 private non-profit and for-profit postsecondary institutions and oversee 110 of those schools that disburse state aid and loan funds. In 2016, we added an Institutional Monitoring Specialist position, created to provide support and information to students who have a dispute with their postsecondary institution, to monitor compliance of statutory compliance, and to work with institutions to implement best practices in postsecondary education.

- **Minnesota 529 College Savings Plan:** We work closely with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA) to administer a program allowing families to save for future postsecondary education expenses in tax-advantaged accounts.

- **Get Ready:** Get Ready is a college readiness program, funded by a federal GEAR UP grant of $3.46M/year. The state continues to experience racial inequities in the areas of postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion. While college aspirations are high (over 90% across grade levels) amongst students of color, program data shows that lower rates of academic preparedness, academic tenacity, college knowledge, and a perceived lack of affordability act as significant barriers to postsecondary enrollment and completion. Through evidence-based postsecondary readiness interventions, Get Ready is working to eliminate these inequities by building schools’ capacity to equip students and families with the necessary information, skills, tools, and strategies for overcoming these barriers. Get Ready is also committed to forming strong partnerships with employers, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations to ensure long-range sustainability in postsecondary readiness services after the GEAR UP grant expires.

M.S.136A [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A) provides legal authority for OHE’s student financial aid services.

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

M.S. 136A.61 – 82 [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.821](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.821) provides legal authority for OHE’s licensing and registration services.
Program: Student Financial Aid Services

http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- Administer over 20 financial aid and grant programs designed to remove financial barriers for students so they can obtain a postsecondary credential.
- Provide a total of $208 million in need-based financial assistance to 79,805 Minnesota students in FY2019 through the Minnesota State Grant program.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Office of Higher Education’s Student Financial Aid Services support the agency’s mission to achieve student financial access to postsecondary education for all Minnesotans. 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 Services division administers numerous programs that support students pursuing postsecondary education and training. The division also serves student loan borrowers serving Minnesota in key occupations identified by the legislature. Additionally, the division administers several grants that go to a variety of external organizations. As a result, it is not always possible to determine the number of students that directly benefit from the grant. In the Table below, data is only provided in the student column if the grant goes directly to students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota State Grant</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>79,805</td>
<td>$208 million</td>
<td>Need-based grant to MN residents attending MN colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate Tuition Reciprocity</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>27,299</td>
<td>$8.34 million</td>
<td>Waives non-resident tuition rates for MN residents attending public colleges in reciprocity states.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Work Study</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>9,569</td>
<td>$14.7 million</td>
<td>Funds allocated to MN colleges to pay 75% of wages for student employment on or off campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Child Care Grant</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>$7.1 million</td>
<td>Need-based grants to student parents using childcare services while attending college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Indian Scholarship</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>$2.98 million</td>
<td>Need-based scholarships to MN resident students who have at least one-quarter American Indian ancestry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Family Practice &amp; HCMC Family Medical Residency Program</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$1.52 million</td>
<td>Financial support for family-practice residency programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal College Supplemental Grants</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$118,561</td>
<td>Direct financial support to tribal colleges in MN to support the cost of educating non-tribal members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Officers Survivor’s Grant</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$71,365</td>
<td>Non-need-based college grants to survivors of MN public safety officers killed in the line of duty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Candidate Grant</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>$558,929</td>
<td>Grants to eligible students completing required student teaching experiences. Awards prioritized for teacher candidates in shortage areas and teacher candidates who belong to racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the MN teacher workforce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various State Loan Repayment Programs*</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1.23 million</td>
<td>Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment (1,020 teachers and $1.018m), Agricultural Educator Loan Repayment (22 Ag Educators and $63,622), Aviation Degree Loan Repayment (9 pilots and $45,000), LRAP of MN (50 attorneys and $25,000), Large Animal Vet Loan Forgiveness (5 Vets and $75,000).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$41,573</td>
<td>Federal grant funds used for student loan repayment assistance to public defenders and prosecutors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIPELINE Dual Training Grants</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1.89 million</td>
<td>Grants to employers to train employees through dual training programs in identified occupations in the advanced manufacturing, health care services, information technology, and agriculture industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$380,148</td>
<td>Financial assistance to students with intellectual and development disabilities who attend Comprehensive Transition &amp; Postsecondary (CTP) programs at eligible Minnesota postsecondary institutions. Program began making awards in FY2019, so the awarded amount in FY2019 represents two years of funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Life College (Now named Minnesota Independence College &amp; Community)</td>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1.35 million</td>
<td>Grant to Minnesota Independence College &amp; Community (formerly Minnesota Life College) to provide need-based scholarships and tuition reduction for their participants. For the 2018-19 academic year, 51 students received need-based scholarships and 117 students received reduced tuition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Program Year Students Expenditures Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota 529 College Savings Program</td>
<td>FY2018 (As of 3/31/20</td>
<td>72,774 Active</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
<td>A tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan to help families save for higher education tuition and expenses. The Plan is administered by the Office of Higher Education and State Board of Investment (SBI). There is no state appropriation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20)</td>
<td>Accounts 41,194</td>
<td>in assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Account Holders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students Grant Program</td>
<td>2019 (FY2018/2019 combined)</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>$348,000</td>
<td>Competitive grants to postsecondary institutions to re-grant to students experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and/or other financial barriers that would impact their attendance/persistence in college.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* FY19 award amounts are higher for the Agricultural Educator Loan Repayment program and the Aviation Degree Loan repayment program because the programs began issuing awards in FY19 and had FY18 and FY19 appropriations available to award in only FY19.

**RESULTS**

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

- Assessing the average net price students and families pay for postsecondary attendance and its relation to family income.
- 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.
- Tracking the percentage of students who take out student loans to attend college.
- Comparing the percentage of Minnesota State Grant recipients who attend the various sectors in Minnesota with nationwide averages to determine if the program continues to support student choice.

**Applicants for financial aid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Students Served - Eligible Students applying for State Grant</td>
<td>160,257</td>
<td>153,442</td>
<td>145,724</td>
<td>135,969</td>
<td>131,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Students Served - Number of State Grant Recipients</td>
<td>95,324</td>
<td>82,416</td>
<td>81,027</td>
<td>80,793</td>
<td>79,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Percent of Applicants Receiving a State Grant</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Median Cumulative Student Debt & Percentage of Students Borrowing in Minnesota**

State financial aid programs help reduce the cumulative amount students must borrow to cover educational costs. Median student loan debt in Minnesota has been stable over the past five years. Students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Minnesota institutions had an average median student loan debt of $25,453 in 2018 and associate degree recipients had an average median student loan debt of $16,297 in 2018.

The percentage of Minnesota four-year college graduates with student loans has also been declining slightly over the past four years, from 72 percent of Bachelors’ degree graduates borrowing in 2014 to 68 percent in 2018, and 69 percent for associate degree recipients borrowing in 2014 to 60 percent in 2018.
Cumulative Median Debt of Graduates, 2013-14 to 2017-18 by Degree Level

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Cumulative Debt – Sub-baccalaureate Certificates</td>
<td>$11,228</td>
<td>$11,343</td>
<td>$10,853</td>
<td>$10,535</td>
<td>$10,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Cumulative Debt – Associate Degrees</td>
<td>$19,068</td>
<td>$18,246</td>
<td>$17,131</td>
<td>$16,594</td>
<td>$16,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Cumulative Debt – Bachelor’s Degrees</td>
<td>$27,389</td>
<td>$27,155</td>
<td>$25,968</td>
<td>$25,588</td>
<td>$25,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment at Private Postsecondary Education Institutions in Minnesota

Minnesota’s undergraduate students continue to attend in-state private institutions at a higher rate (28 percent) than the national average (21 percent). The percentage of students enrolled at private institutions in Minnesota has decreased over the most recent eight years from its peak of 30% in fall 2010, which corresponds to recent closures of several private for-profit institutions and declining enrollments in all higher education institutions.

Percent of Undergraduates Attending Private Postsecondary Institutions


The following links are to statutes or laws providing legal authority to the Office of Higher Education to administer the programs:
Minnesota State Grant Program
Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Program
Minnesota State Work Study Program
Minnesota State Work Study Program
Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program
Tribal College Supplemental Grants
Safety Officers Survivor’s Grant Program.
United Family Practice & HCMC Family Medical Residency Program
Teacher Candidate Grant
Aviation Degree Loan Repayment Program
Agricultural Educator Loan Repayment
Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment
LRAP of Minnesota
Large Animal Vet Loan Forgiveness
PIPELINE Dual Training Grants
Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Minnesota 529 College Savings Program
Program: State Supplemental Loans

http://www.selfloan.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- Over 390,000 borrowers currently have loans through the SELF program, which offers low-interest loans for Minnesota residents or students enrolled at a Minnesota school.
- Over 750 borrowers currently have loans through the SELF Refi program, a low-interest student loan refinance program available to Minnesota residents.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Office of Higher Education 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 by supporting students in earning a higher education credential by providing low-cost loan funds to attend college. SELF Loans are not limited to people with certain income levels. Students are eligible as long as they meet minimum program requirements and have a co-signer.

The SELF Refi program is available to help Minnesota residents refinance their student loans by offering low interest rates and favorable repayment terms. A wide variety of people are able to use the loan as long as they meet program eligibility requirements. Refinancing can help borrowers reduce monthly payments, length of their loans and/or overall debt.

SERVICES PROVIDED

SELF Program

The SELF program provides loans to students and families to help pay for college. The SELF Loan is available to Minnesota residents attending a participating college nationwide, or a Minnesota resident or nonresident attending a college in Minnesota. The program provides money to students to cover the cost of attending college beyond what is available through scholarship and grant money. Students can choose either a fixed or variable rate. SELF interest rates as of August 1, 2020 are: 2.60% variable and 4.85% fixed. SELF interest rates are typically lower than those of private loans.

Current activities of the SELF program:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the SELF program took various actions to provide payment relief to borrowers and co-signers. Some of the actions include:

- Zero percent interest from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2020
- Special COVID-19 six-month forbearances based on the borrower or co-signer’s request
- No late fees through September 30, 2020
- Disbursement forgiveness if the student withdrew from school March 13 or later due to COVID-19.

SELF Refi

The SELF Refi program provides loans to help Minnesota residents refinance their postsecondary education debt to make their debt more manageable through lower interest rates and/or longer repayment terms. The SELF Refi Loan is available to Minnesota residents who have earned a credential, are currently employed, meet credit and debt-to-income requirements, and have at least $10,000 in qualified education loans to refinance. There is also an option for a co-signed loan if the borrower does not qualify individually but meets minimum credit and debt-to-income requirements with a co-signer. The maximum SELF Refi loan is $70,000. There are six different loan
options based on loan term and type of interest rate. Rates range from 2.80% to 5.30% as of August 1, 2020. The debt-to-income ratio of the borrower and co-signer (if needed) determine which of the six options the borrower can select from.

**Current activities of the SELF Refi program:**

The Agency continues to look for ways to improve the value of the Refi program to Minnesota residents. The Agency has modified eligibility criteria multiple times since inception to enable more residents to qualify without a significant increase in the risk of default. The Agency has moved cautiously with changes since it can take years to see trends in defaulted loans.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the SELF Refi program took various actions to provide payment relief to borrowers and cosigners. Some of the actions include:

- Zero percent interest from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2020
- Special COVID-19 forbearances of six-months based on the borrower or co-signer’s request.
- No late fees through September 30, 2020

**RESULTS**

**SELF Program**

**SELF Loans Awarded (Fiscal Years 1995 - 2019)**

![Graph showing SELF Loans Awarded](image)

**Quantity:**

The number of SELF Loans and total dollars given to students decreased between 2009 and 2015. There are two primary reasons for the decrease:

- The federal government passed a law in 2008, which greatly restricts the ability of colleges to give students information about non-federal loans. Before this law was in place, colleges could give students information about the SELF Loan and the low interest rates available.
The amount students could borrow through the SELF program was not keeping up with the cost of going to college. As a result, students would borrow from private banks or other financial sources in order to get all the money they needed from one place, even though it may cost them more in interest and fees.

Loan volume increased in fiscal year 2016 as a result of increasing the loan limit from $10,000 to $20,000 for students enrolled in 4-year or graduate programs. Since the increase, the volume has remained relatively stable with a slight decrease in 2019-20.

Quality:

Gross defaults represent the loan balance at the time of default. The amount owed after payments have been made on the defaulted loans is the net default. Both the gross and net default rates for SELF loans are fairly low in comparison to other private loan programs. The Agency effectively collects money owed on defaulted loans resulting in net default rates of less than 3%. The low net default rate means less than 3% of the loans originated are not repaid. Low default rates help keep interest rates low for students, since people not repaying their loans is a program expense.

![SELF Loan Program Default Rates as of 2019](image)

**SELF Refi Program**

Quantity:

The legislature limited the SELF Refi program to a maximum amount of $100 million in loans outstanding. Since the program’s inception, the SELF has refinanced over $50 million in loans.

Quality:

The program is still relatively new (2016) and will continue to be evaluated. Changes in eligibility have been made since the start of the program and will continue to be made to increase the program’s value to Minnesota residents in managing student debt.

M.S. 136A.1701 [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.1701](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.1701) provides the legal authority for the SELF program.

M.S. 136A.1704 [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.1704](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.1704) provides the legal authority for the SELF Refi program.
Higher Education, Office of
Program: Research, Policy, and Analysis

AT A GLANCE

- Provides 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.
- Awarded $343,701 from external funders in FY2020 for cross-agency collaborative projects in the areas of postsecondary-workforce alignments, longitudinal data, and quality assurance.
- $3,340,000 available to support innovative research through Spinal Cord & Traumatic Brain Injury Grants in FY2019.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Research, Policy and Analysis Division provides credible, politically neutral, research-based data, information and analysis on higher education. Research deliverables evaluate programs, inform strategic plans, develop and inform state policy, and assist individuals, colleges, communities, and the state.

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, Tuition Reciprocity).
- Leads the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) and facilitates sustainability for 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. SLEDS assists 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 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 100 postsecondary education institutions operating in Minnesota. Administers surveys to institutions regarding study abroad health and safety, sexual assault, cumulative debt, financial aid awarded, and dual credit acceptance.
- Develops and runs several grant programs created by the Minnesota Legislature (including the Spinal Cord & Traumatic Brain Injury Research Grant program, and the Concurrent Enrollment Grant Program).
### RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Unduplicated count of students enrolled for which OHE maintains data.</td>
<td>424,923 (fall term only)</td>
<td>418,009 (fall term only)</td>
<td>531,113 (all terms)</td>
<td>518,590 (all terms)</td>
<td>509,602 (all terms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Unduplicated count of students graduating for which OHE maintains data.</td>
<td>95,801</td>
<td>100,044</td>
<td>99,666</td>
<td>98,167</td>
<td>99,866</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Number of collaborative projects and grant dollars awarded to OHE</td>
<td>3 - $73,000</td>
<td>5 - $748,000</td>
<td>5 - $0</td>
<td>5 - $0</td>
<td>5 - $343,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Number of New Grantees (Organizations) - Grant dollars awarded by OHE</td>
<td>12 organizations; $1,054,022</td>
<td>19 organizations; $1,743,999</td>
<td>27 organizations; $3,795,835</td>
<td>27 organizations; $3,761,301</td>
<td>20 organizations; $3,254,973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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136A.01 OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION Subd. 2(a)(6) [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.01](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.

135A.012 HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT GOAL [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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.

127A.70 MINNESOTA P-20 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP. Subd. 2(b) [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/127A.70](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:

- Minnesota Statutes 136A.121 STATE GRANT PROGRAM. Subd. 20 provides statutory responsibility for data collection, analysis and reporting of postsecondary enrollment, completion, and financial aid.
- Minnesota Statutes 116J.4011 LABOR MARKET INFORMATION DATA PRODUCTION REQUIREMENT provides statutory responsibility for collaborative reporting with DEED related to postsecondary employment outcomes of college graduates.
- Minnesota Statutes 124D.09 subdivision 10a requires OHE to evaluate and report on concurrent enrollment programs.
- Minnesota Statutes 136A.055 DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION REPORTING requires OHE to report annually on developmental education enrollment and completion of recent high school graduates.
- Minnesota Statutes 136A.08 RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO NONRESIDENT TUITION WITH OTHER STATES OR PROVINCES Subd 7 require OHE to report on students receiving tuition reciprocity.
Higher Education, Office of  
Program: Postsecondary Access and Outreach

http://www.minitex.umn.edu/  
http://www.getready.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- **Get Ready Program**: federal grant renewed in 2017. An estimated 47,000 students from low-income background and communities of color will receive services during the seven-year grant.

- **Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP)**: provides student support services to 3,833 students in grades six through 12, as well as first-year postsecondary students.

- **Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP)**: helps fund MnEEP operations and activities to increase the success of students of color and American Indian students in Minnesota schools, colleges, and universities.

- **Minitex/MNLink**: provides statewide support functions to assist academic, public, state government, school and special libraries through services such as interlibrary loan and the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), which provides over 20 million resource downloads annually.

- **College Possible**: provides Minnesota students support services to 7,362 high school and postsecondary students to facilitate educational completion.

- **Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP)**: provides grants for approximately 800 students annually in grades 3 through 11 to attend an academically-enriching summer programs.

- **Student/Parent Outreach**: A range of services/publications are made available to college-bound students and their families on topics such as choosing a college, paying for college, and FAFSA completion. In addition, Staff gave 86 presentations, 17 of which were in Spanish, and reached a total of 3,800 students and their families. The Minnesota Goes to College initiative partnered with 165 schools across Minnesota to help them host college application and FAFSA completion events.

- **Campus Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program**: provides resources, training, and guidance on best practices to postsecondary institutions to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

CONTEXT

The primary mission of the Agency is to help Minnesota students gain access to postsecondary education, with special focus on closing attainment gaps for underserved communities, including first-generation and low-income students, students of color and indigenous students, and members of the BIPOC community. Comprehensive information is provided to students in secondary education through adulthood on postsecondary options, covering topics such as preparing, applying and paying for college. Critical OHE outreach and access programs include Get Ready, the Intervention for College Awareness Program, Campus Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program, Summer Academic Enrichment Program, College Possible, Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP), and other programs such as MNLink/Minetex, Student Parent Outreach, and a Student Employer Connection Information System.

**Get Ready**, which receives federally funding through GEAR UP a grant, and $180,000 annually in state funding, aims to increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds and communities of color who are graduating from high school, participating in postsecondary education, and successfully transitioning into a career pathway. The program builds high-need middle and high schools’ capacity to deliver postsecondary readiness programming to students and their families, effectively utilize data to drive continuous improvement, and make the systemic changes necessary to sustain a culture of college-going. An estimated 47,000 students from low-income background and communities of color will receive services during the seven-year grant cycle.
The Intervention for College Attendance Program provides competitive grants to postsecondary institutions, professional organizations, community-based organizations, or other service providers to strengthen students’ preparation and aptitude for postsecondary success. The program serves students from underserved communities in grades 6-12 and in their first year of college.

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

Minitex/MNLINK services provide statewide support functions to assist academic, public, state government, school, and special libraries. Minitex is an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries. It leverages the resources from 2,200 participating institutions to provide direct benefits to students, educators, library staff, and the general public. It reduces costs for local libraries and reaches residents in every community in the state, providing access to information, educational resources, and Ebooks throughout Greater Minnesota, leveling the playing field for those with less access to quality resources.

The Student/Parent Outreach initiatives provide a range of services to college-bound students and their families. The following represent the core modalities:

- **Financial Aid & Choosing a College Publications**: Currently, we produce and print publications on Financial Aid Basics, FAFSA & Dream Act, Grants & Scholarships, Loans & Consumer Protection, and Choosing a College. These publications give an overview of Minnesota institutions, the programs they offer, the application process for financial aid, and all of the different ways to finance one’s postsecondary education. The Choosing a College publication allows students to explore two-year and four-year public and private institutions, as well as accredited cosmetology and specialized trade schools. The profiles found in the beginning of the guide provide information on tuition, fees, class sizes, and required exams. Our program grid, found in the back of the guide, helps match students’ interests and field of study with the Minnesota institution that is best suited for them.

- **Financial Aid & College Knowledge Presentations**: These presentations are delivered by our team of contracted outreach presenters in English or Spanish to help students and families understand the financial aid process, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Minnesota Dream Act, and how to choose and apply to college.

- **Outreach Videos**: These videos are recorded presentations given by the contracted outreach presenters. 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.

- **Minnesota Goes to College**: Minnesota Goes to College provides graduating high school seniors with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to apply 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 and Dream Act information, and application completion. Minnesota Goes to College is sponsored by a steering committee of K12, higher education, and nonprofit partners, including: Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE), Minnesota Private College Council, Minnesota State, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Minnesota State University - Mankato, Saint Paul Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, Buffalo High School, Johnson High School, Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC), Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA), and AVID college readiness program. OHE partnered with 165 high schools in the 2019-2020 school year and served approximately 30,000 high school seniors.

- **Minnesota State Fair**: Each year, OHE has a booth in Education Building of the Minnesota State Fair, where we distribute information about our publications, outreach, attainment goal, and other resources
to students and their families about postsecondary education. We also have a daily drawing to win a $200 Minnesota 529 College Savings Plan.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Get Ready serves 6th-12th grade students, their families, and the educators 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.

**Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP)** - grants provide students from underserved communities in 6th-12th grade and their first year of college with the following services:

- Academic counseling and mentoring
- Fostering and improving parental involvement in planning for and facilitating a college education
- Services for students with English as a second language
- Academic enrichment activities and tutoring
- Career awareness and exploration
- Assistance with high school course selection
- Information about college admission requirements, financial aid counseling, and orientation to college life
- Social-emotional development
- Culturally appropriate teaching and learning

**Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP)** – OHE serves as the fiscal agent for an annual appropriation to MnEEP in the amount of $45,000. MnEEP was founded to increase the success of students of color and American Indian students in Minnesota schools, colleges, and universities. MnEEP achieves its mission by researching race equity in Minnesota education and fostering collaborative efforts between students, parents, and educators to better align the Minnesota education system with communities of color.

**College Possible - Twin Cities** - OHE serves as the fiscal agent for a $250,000 annual state appropriation. College Possible’s mission is to help low-income Minnesota students attending Minnesota institutions become college graduates.

**MNLINK** - the online discovery and interlibrary loan portal for libraries, provides access to materials across the region. MNLINK provides 24/7 access to request books, articles, media and other physical or online resources.

- ELM, the Electronic Library for Minnesota, is an electronic collection of research and information databases that Minnesotans can access 24/7. Schools and libraries can directly link to ELM at no charge.
Minitex - provides overnight delivery of physical materials to participating libraries, including delivery to the state’s residents from the University of Minnesota’s library collections.

- Through Resource Sharing, 350,000 interlibrary loan requests were processed, 75,000 articles were delivered directly to patrons online, and approximately 121,650 physical and electronic delivery requests from the University of Minnesota’s library were filled.
- Over 265,000 items from Minnesota’s history and culture are findable and preserved through the Minnesota Digital Library’s primary service, Minnesota Reflections. This service has helped 180 libraries, museums, historical societies, and other Minnesota organizations digitize their collections and host them online and share the objects with the Digital Public Library of America.
- The newest service is Ebooks Minnesota, a collection of Ebooks for academic, public, and school libraries. The collection launched with over 2,500 titles in February 2016, and since then, 27,000 state residents have read 36,000 titles.
- Through AskMN, online reference librarians answer students’ and professors’ questions and help them locate educational materials.
- Group discounts are negotiated for online databases, information resources, library supplies, and training opportunities.
- Professional education opportunities are provided for library staff, K12 school students, and the general public.
- Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC) is a long-term, underground storage facility and makes 1.5 million volumes from 21 libraries available upon request.

The Campus Sexual Violence Prevention and Response program serves as a resource to all postsecondary institutions in Minnesota providing professional development and trainings, guidance on best practices, hosting community listening sessions, and providing materials to institutions. The program also provides guidance for fulfilling the requirements delineated in the Postsecondary Education Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy (Minnesota Statute 135A.15) as well as oversees the statewide campus sexual assault reporting required under Minnesota Statutes 135A.15.
RESULTS

Get Ready Direct Service Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Number of students receiving Get Ready Services</td>
<td>2,517</td>
<td>5,247</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Number of students going on college visits</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Middle School Reading Proficiency (% Proficient)</td>
<td>36.44%</td>
<td>36.51%</td>
<td>2017 &amp; 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Middle School Math Proficiency (% Proficient)</td>
<td>36.26%</td>
<td>37.77%</td>
<td>2017 &amp; 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Postsecondary education knowledge (% correct score)</td>
<td>57.88%</td>
<td>58.51%</td>
<td>2017 &amp; 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intervention for College Attendance Program

- Outcomes: High school graduation rates are higher in ICAP-funded programs than the state’s average (89% in 2018)
- Outcomes: College enrollment is higher in ICAP-funded programs than the state average (90% in 2018)
### Minitex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Requests created by MN residents using the MNLINK</td>
<td>484,037</td>
<td>537,751</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Delivery items shipped</td>
<td>540,494</td>
<td>976,583</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Reference questions answered online through AskMN</td>
<td>37,257</td>
<td>34,854</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>ELM searches by MN resident for articles, references sources, and full text documents</td>
<td>60,277,210</td>
<td>61,838,917</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Number of unique digital object representing Minnesota’s history &amp; culture in MN Reflections</td>
<td>273,585</td>
<td>746,887</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All numbers are from data tracking systems including Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). In the case of electronic delivery, the data comes from vendor system statistics. Resource Sharing numbers come from software programs, including Ex Libris Aleph, Agent ILL, OCLC Worldshare, and VDX.

Minnesota Statute 136A.01 provides the legal authority for OHE’s Postsecondary and Outreach Services [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.01](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.01)
Program: OHE Administration

School Licensure & Registration [www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=197](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=197)
Financial Reports [http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/investors/financialStatements.cfm](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/investors/financialStatements.cfm)
Publications [http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/pubsGR.cfm](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/pubsGR.cfm)

**AT A GLANCE**

- Provide strategic fiscal leadership, oversight, and support for agency leadership and programs, while managing processes and transactions related to OHE’s $345 million annual budget.
- Support an equitable workforce and inclusive culture through reviewing and updating policies and procedures, promoting training and professional development opportunities, and internal communication and events.
- Audit postsecondary schools that participate in Minnesota aid programs (including SELF) with the goal of ensuring students receive the correct amount of eligible aid.
- License and Register over 178 postsecondary providers to operate in Minnesota – providing consumer protections for students and their families.

**PURPOSE AND CONTEXT**

Agency Administration encompasses several internal operations of OHE, including Financial Services, Human Resources, and Audit. Financial Services empowers leadership and program staff to achieve agency goals by promoting sound fiscal policy in decision-making and 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. The Audit division helps to ensure the appropriate use of state resources by providing training and audits for program recipients. Additionally, OHE’s Licensing & Registration division protects consumers (students) by licensing and registering private degree and non-degree institutions.

**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 established policies and procedures.
- Responsible for debt management and compliance for the SELF 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.
- 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.
- Licensing and Registration protects consumers by licensing and registering private degree and non-degree institutions to:
  - Ensure that schools operating in Minnesota, or providing education to Minnesotans, meet quality standards
  - Monitor school compliance to Minnesota statutes and degree standards
  - Provide information and assist students to resolve disputes with schools
  - Consumer complaints are accepted, reviewed, and investigated by the Student Consumer Advocate
  - When necessary, OHE assists schools with revision of programs, or the closing of an entire school...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Measure</th>
<th>Name of Measure</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>No material findings in Certified Audited Financial Statements – Meeting accounting standards</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Number of new student loan revenue bonds issued</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2019 &amp; 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>SELF Program bond ratings in 2018 compared to 2020.</td>
<td>AA (sf) (stable)</td>
<td>AA (sf) (stable)</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018 Issuance (2018 Senior Series)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>AA (sf)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020 Issuance (2020 Senior Series)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Total number postsecondary institutions Licensed and Registered Annually</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>2018 &amp; 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minnesota Statute 136A.01 provides the legal authority for OHE’s Administration Services
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=136A.01

Minnesota Statutes 136A.61 to 136A.71 – 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.

Minnesota Statutes 136A.82 to 136A.834 – Minnesota Private Career School Act provides the legal authority for the Licensure of non-degree-granting private career schools in Minnesota.

Minnesota Statutes 136A.171 to 136A.187 provides the legal authority for the issuance of student loan revenue bonds.