

MINNESOTA'S



COVID-19 RECOVERY BUDGET



2022-2023 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

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Higher Education Budget Priorities

February 17th , 2021

Dennis Olson | Commissioner
Minnesota Office of Higher Education



Recover and Build for the Future

\$35 million for workforce and reskilling grants

\$1.3 million for student emergencies

\$2.43 million for secondary student learning and college preparation

Workforce Stabilization Grants



- Governor Walz proposes investing **\$35 million** to provide affordable access to public colleges, universities, and tribal colleges for workers impacted by COVID-19 and low income students.
- Provides two pathways for eligibility:
 - Displaced workers with incomes up to \$80,000
 - Students with incomes up to \$50,000
- With its focus on high-need occupations, this program will also support Minnesota's economic vitality.

Emergency Assistance For Postsecondary Students



- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated temporary financial hardships for thousands of Minnesota college students, threatening their ability to stay in school.
- Governor Walz proposes a \$1.3M increased investment in Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students grants that will help more students weather these hardships so they can continue their education

Summer Learning and College Preparation



- Governor Walz recommends an investment of **\$2.43M** over the biennium to support two programs designed to address educational challenges caused by the pandemic.
- Both the Summer Academic Enrichment Program and the Intervention for College Attendance Program target low-income students, helping them catch-up from an even more challenging school year.
- This additional funding will increase the number of students served, as well as expand program options.
- These rigorous learning programs will help hundreds of students improve their academic skills and prepare them to continue their education after high school.

Continued Support for Minnesota's Students

\$6.3 million for the Minnesota State Grant

\$1 million for proactive admissions

\$5.4 million for teacher candidates

Minnesota State Grant Program



- Governor Walz proposes an additional **\$6.3 million investment** in the State Grant program to provide stable grant awards for students
 - The additional investment provides both larger grants and more money for living expenses, helping to address growing food and housing insecurity created by the pandemic.
- The Governor is also proposing **exempting developmental education credits** currently being counted toward State Grant eligibility totals. By exempting courses that do not count toward graduation, students will remain eligible for State Grant assistance for courses needed for program completion.

Teacher Candidate Grant



- There are shortages in the teacher workforce, particularly teachers of color and Indigenous teachers. According to PELSB's Supply and Demand Report teachers of color and Indigenous teachers only represent 5.64% of all licenses in the state. They are drastically underrepresented compared to the overall percentage of students of color and Indigenous students.
- Governor Walz proposes an additional **\$5.4 million investment** and recommends changes to support more teacher candidates, specifically future teachers of color, American Indian teachers and Greater Minnesota teachers.

Direct Admissions Minnesota



- Governor Walz proposes \$1 million over the biennium to support a college going initiative to create a proactive admissions process for Minnesota public high school students entering their senior year.
- A partnership between K-12 and higher education with the potential to:
 - Reduce equity gaps
 - Provide important college-going information and signals to high school students
 - Alleviate potential access gaps for both rural and urban populations
 - Eliminate the need for extensive college-going knowledge to navigate the college application process.

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Continued Support for Minnesota Students

Policy

Student Support



- **Minnesota Postsecondary Child Care Grant program**
 - By simplifying the grant award formula, more students with children will have access to funding for child care grants, helping them stay in school and focus on their studies.
- **Improved Dual Training Grants:**
 - Recommended modifications to the grant criteria will improve the selection process, ensuring better quality dual-training programs are selected for grants.
- **Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program**
 - Two changes to this grant program will increase eligibility for more students:
 - Expanded ancestry eligibility
 - Provide full-year awards to eligible students enrolled in three consecutive semesters or four consecutive quarters

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Realignment

Policy

Realignment and Expansion



- Governor Walz proposes leveraging existing programs to support additional organizations, teachers, and students in the state by:
 - Expanding the \$680,000 Concurrent Enrollment Grant program to allow funds to also be used for teacher professional development and student recruitment.
 - Converting a \$2 million direct appropriation going to one organization into a competitive grant program that will provide funding to multiple nonprofit organizations, school districts, advocacy organizations, and/or postsecondary programs that specialize in preparing and supporting students living with Autism Spectrum Disorder for life after high school.

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Support Public Institutions to Help Them Recover

\$46.5 million for the University of Minnesota

\$63.5 million for Minnesota State

Support for the University of Minnesota



- The Governor recommends a \$46.5M increase to its Operations and Maintenance (O&M) general fund appropriation to successfully address its most pressing strategic needs, including:
 - Retaining world class faculty and employees
 - Managing quality facility and classroom environments
 - Ensuring regulatory compliance
 - Strategically investing in targeted program enhancements.

Support for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



- The Governor recommends \$61M over the biennium for Campus Responsiveness and Stabilization.
 - This proposal provides campuses with the operating funds they need to continue offering high-quality, affordable higher education programs throughout the state.
- An investment of \$2.5M over the biennium to address critical needs that stand in the way of college and university students pursuing and completing their educational programs.
 - This proposal will fund an online mental health resource for students and an information hub to connect students to state and local resources to address basic needs, such as housing and food insecurity.

Budget Reductions

\$12.2 million reduction

Budget Reductions



Budget Reductions

- The Governor recommends an overall reduction in base funding for the agency of **\$12.2 million** for FY 2022-23. Reductions will come from:
 - Dual Training Grant Transfer to Department of Labor and Industry - \$400,000
 - Interstate Tuition Reciprocity -\$5.036M
 - Large Animal Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness-\$750,000
 - Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Grant -\$6M

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Thank you!