

2023 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE INVESTMENTS



**\$650 mil
invested in
2024-25
biennium**

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan's One Minnesota Budget includes a historic investment of an additional \$650 million in higher education over the next biennium. These investments will benefit thousands of Minnesotans through financial aid programs, workforce initiatives, and strategically allocated funding to support historically under-represented students toward their journeys in degree attainment. Through the secured funding and new programs, the state has shown its commitment to providing access to all Minnesotans to pursue credentials that advance their careers, as well as improve overall economic outcomes and meet 21st century workforce needs.

The following higher education legislative priorities have secured investments and will be implemented during the next biennium:

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

North Star Promise Program

This new financial aid program will cover the cost of tuition and fees for Minnesota families earning less than \$80K AGI a year. Students must meet all state financial aid eligibility and attend a public higher education institution or tribal college. Beginning in 2024-25, this investment will break down financial barriers for an estimated 15,000-20,000 students.

Minnesota State Grant

State Grant support was increased for students by increasing eligibility for the Living and Miscellaneous Expense (LME) from 109% to 115% of the federal poverty limit. In addition, students will now be eligible for Minnesota State Grants when taking up to 180 credits, which aligns with the federal Pell Grant. An estimated 1,600 additional students will now be eligible for State Grants. The current 67,000 students who receive State Grants will receive increases in their grants from this investment.

MN American Indian Scholars Program

This program will provide a first dollar tuition and fee-free pathway for any Minnesota resident who is an enrolled member or citizen of a federally recognized tribe or Canadian First Nation to attend a Minnesota State institution or the University of Minnesota. Any non-resident student who is an enrolled member or citizen of a Minnesota Tribal Nation is also eligible for the program. An estimated 2,000 students will benefit from this investment.

Funding for Tribal Colleges

The One Minnesota Budget provides tribal colleges in the state with support for general operations and maintenance expenses. By providing this funding to Minnesota tribal colleges, they will have a greater ability to support their students in the completion of their degree programs. In addition, OHE will hire a full-time Tribal Relations Director to support tribal-related higher education efforts.



WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Next Gen Nursing Assistant Initiative

Continued investment in this program ensures more Minnesotans have access to free nursing assistant training. To date, this initiative has trained over 3,000 Minnesotans and is playing a vital role in helping hospitals, nursing homes, and veterans homes find qualified candidates for hard-to-fill positions.

Dual Training Grants

An increased investment in this grant program will support more Minnesota businesses to implement work-based learning programs. In addition, eligible industries have been expanded to include Transportation and Early Childhood/Childcare.

Teacher Support Grants

Increased investment for Underrepresented Student Teacher Grant, Student Teachers in Shortage Areas Grant, and the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program to help bolster our state's educator workforce pipeline.

New Scholarships, Fellowships in Healthcare Workforce

A new scholarship program will be established for individuals pursuing a career as a paramedic. In addition, investments include establishing fellowships for individuals pursuing careers in addiction medicine.

DATA AND RESEARCH

ECLDS and SLEDS Expansion

The One Minnesota Budget includes funding to maintain and expand Minnesota's ECLDS (Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System) and Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS). This nationally-recognized database uses student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary education and into the workforce to inform policy making decisions and for research purposes.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students Grant Program

Additional funding for the state's Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) Grant Program was secured to ensure students who experience a short-term emergency while attending college have the support necessary to stay enrolled and complete their program.

Student Parent Support Initiative

This investment will benefit students who are parents or soon-to-be parents by establishing a new competitive grant program. Colleges and universities will use grant funds to implement programs that support the unique needs of parenting students, such as affordable and quality childcare, early education programs, mental health support, and stable housing support.

FUNDING FOR MINNESOTA STATE AND UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

The Minnesota State system saw an investment of \$50 million in one-time campus supports, \$6.3 million for programs to support student mental health and basic needs, and \$13.5 million for workforce equipment and learning environments.

Minnesota State Tuition Freeze

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' students will see a tuition freeze for the next two academic years, saving students around \$150-\$300 each year.

University of Minnesota

The UMN received additional investments of \$4 million for the Natural Resources Research Institute, \$10 million for safety and security, \$10 million to support their CentraCare partnership, and \$100 million to support ongoing operations and maintenance.