

Expand Access to Inclusive Higher Education Statewide

HF 687, Klevorn
SF 655, Fateh

For young adults with intellectual disabilities (ID), having an opportunity to pursue postsecondary education and earn meaningful credentials is critical for personal and professional development.

Students with ID who attend postsecondary education :

- Are more than twice as likely to be employed
- Earn 80% more per year
- Are more likely to live in homes of their own
- Have better physical health and healthier relationships
- Rely less on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) than their peers who do not attend postsecondary education

This supports Minnesota's economic health and sustainability as well. Young adults who go on to live in their own homes, making livable wages, are less likely to rely on expensive services funded by the government.

But less than 3% of Minnesota students with ID have access to in-state postsecondary education, and there are only four colleges and universities in the state that specifically offer enrollment to students with ID.

Barriers to resource and funding have dramatically slowed progress toward expanding inclusive higher education options, and Minnesota is far behind other states in the nation.

HF 687 (Klevorn) / SF 655 (Fateh) will help address these systemic barriers by:

- Funding a Minnesota-based technical assistance center in inclusive higher education best practices and supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Providing competitive grant funding Minnesota colleges and universities to start and expand inclusive higher education initiatives

Expanding access to inclusive higher education across Minnesota will support young adults with ID to earn credentials, pursue a career of their choice, earn a competitive wage, and live in homes of their choice.

Opening pathways to inclusive higher education will strengthen the Minnesota workforce, reduce dependence on more formal, costly supports, and lead to long-term cost savings for the state.

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