



February 27, 2025

To Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I write in support of SF 1474, a bill that would require a school district or charter school high school to participate in the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Direct Admissions program.

As Executive Director of [College Possible Minnesota](https://collegepossible.org), I have seen firsthand the important role that the Direct Admissions program plays in college access for students throughout the state. Last year, our high school program served more than 1113 college bound high school students at more than 50 high schools. Recognizing the power of the Direct Admissions program, we began providing assistance to students who otherwise would not have had this opportunity available to them. In College Possible's first year of participation in the Direct Admission program, 225 students completed their applications. Of those students, over one third are currently attending colleges in Minnesota.

Here are just 2 stories that illustrate the confidence that students gain from knowing that they are college-bound:

- A first generation student at Columbia Heights High school learned through the Direct Admission program that she was eligible to attend 9 colleges in Minnesota. Thanks to the program, she chose an affordable college option and is now successfully completing her first year at a college in Minneapolis and has been accepted into a nursing program next semester.
- Another first generation student in Dodge Center initially did not see college as an option because of the cost and the daunting application process. The Direct Admissions program helped her overcome these concerns, and she is now attending a 4 year state college.

SF 1474 would ensure that all Minnesota students have this same opportunity. This legislation not only creates a pathway for more students to attend college and pursue their goals, it ultimately will strengthen Minnesota communities and expand our state's workforce.

Thank you for all you do for Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BG Tucker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BG Tucker | Executive Director

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