



Paramedic Scholarship Annual Report

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Author**Adam Johnson**

State Financial Aid Administrator

Tel: 651.642.0567

Adam.D.Johnson@state.mn.us**About the Minnesota Office of Higher Education**

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding up to \$224 million in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending eligible colleges, universities and career schools in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

About This Report

This is a legislative-mandated report. As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197, this report cost approximately \$3,399.51 to prepare, including staff time.

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350

Saint Paul, MN 55108-5227

Tel: 651.642.0567 or 800.657.3866

TTY Relay: 800.627.3529

Fax: 651.642.0675

Email: financialaid@state.mn.us

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Introduction

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature passed the Paramedic Scholarship in the higher education omnibus bill and was signed by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023. It required the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) to establish a program to provide up to 600 scholarships for students entering eligible paramedic programs by 2026. A one-time appropriation of \$3 million was provided to fund the Paramedic Scholarship; the funds will be awarded until all funds are disbursed or by June 30, 2026.

OHE is required to submit an annual report by February 15, 2025, and again February 15, 2026 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education finance and policy. The report must include the following information and any other information the commissioner considers relevant:

- Information about all postsecondary programs giving rise to eligibility for a scholarship, including the programs' locations, costs, enrollment capacities, acceptance rates, and other relevant information.
- Available data on the current and forecasted demand for paramedics in Minnesota.
- The total number of scholarships issued disaggregated by:
 - a. year of award,
 - b. postsecondary institution attended, and
 - c. relevant and available demographic data about award recipients.

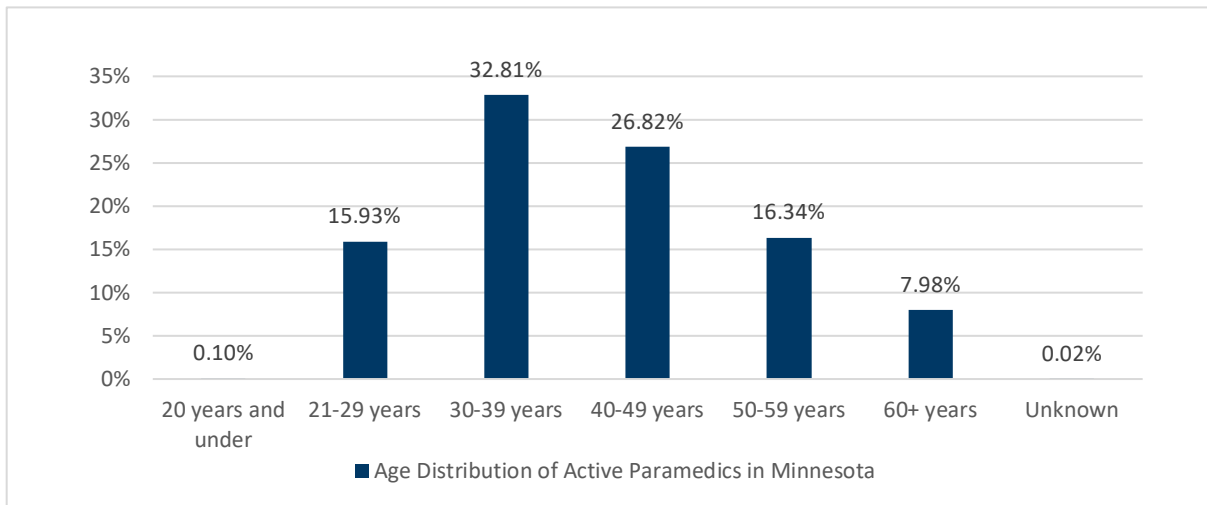
This report will provide data for the first year of the of the program, fiscal year 2025. However, due to the deadline for the report and the timeline of the academic year, the report is an incomplete picture of the first year of the program. Data will include all payments for the Fall 2024 term and projected awards for Spring 2025 and Summer 2025 terms.

Data in this report on current paramedics in Minnesota was obtained from Dylan Ferguson, Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, formerly the Emergency Medical Services Board.

Paramedic Need in Minnesota

As of January 2025, there are 4,075 actively licensed paramedics in Minnesota. Figure 1 displays the percentage distribution of active paramedics in Minnesota by age. Of note, approximately 24% of Minnesota paramedics are age 50 years or older, while only approximately 16% are under the age of 30.

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Active Paramedics in Minnesota



Based on forecasts from the Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), the number of certification expirations will increase more quickly over the next three years; at the same time, the number of new students completing requirements to become a paramedic through education programs in Minnesota will not meet the pace of expirations. In the best-case scenario forecast, 254 current paramedics will allow their certification to expire in 2027.

Figure 2. Forecast of Minnesota Paramedic Certification Expirations

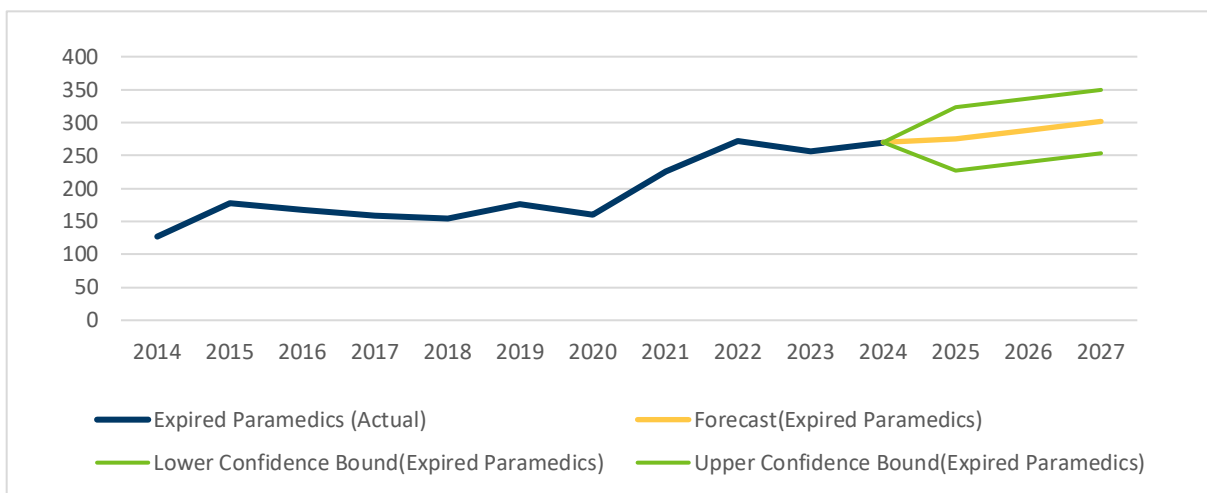
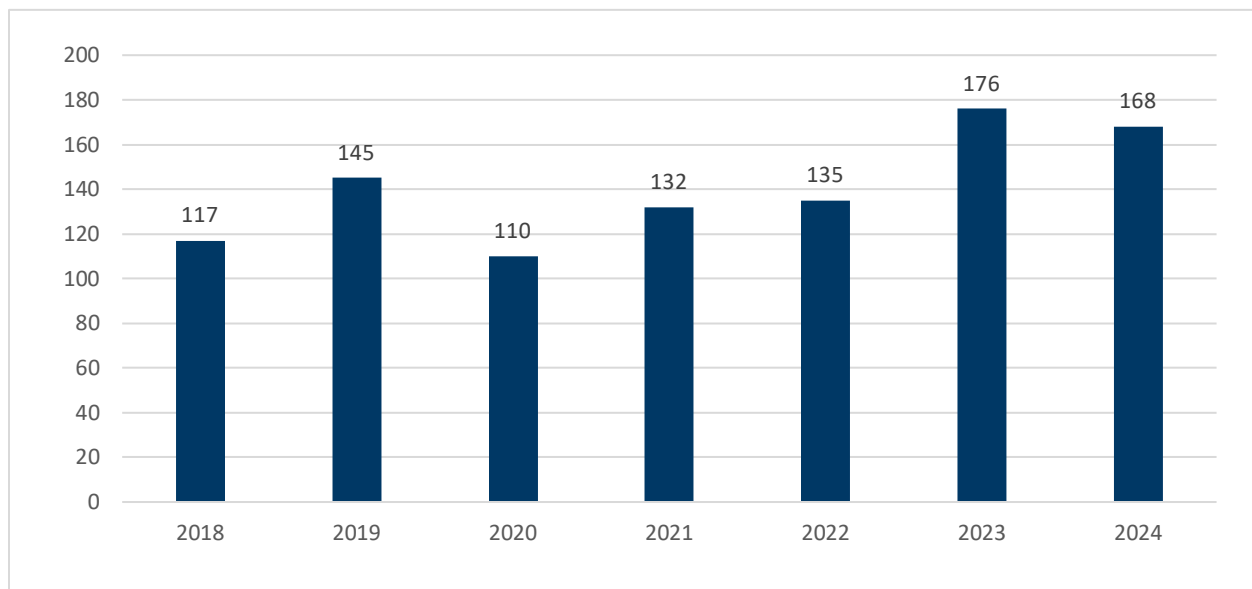


Figure 3 displays the number of new paramedics who graduated from Minnesota education programs in recent years. If trends continue, Minnesota will lose more licensed paramedics, between 254 and 350, than will be added through Minnesota education programs. Education programs were only able to add 168 licensed paramedics in 2024. This figure does not include paramedics who transfer their certification to Minnesota from another state, or Minnesota residents who may have completed their education in a bordering state.

Figure 3. New Paramedics through MN Education Programs



The Paramedic Scholarship was approved to help close the gap between paramedic expirations and new paramedics. Institutions eligible for the Paramedic Scholarship reported 299 seats in their program capacity for fiscal year 2025. Ridgewater College added capacity to their paramedic program from 22 seats to 30 seats because of increased interest in the program.

Student Eligibility and Application Process

Planning for the Paramedic Scholarship began in Summer 2023, including consultation with the Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), community stakeholders, and participating institutions.

With assistance from the OEMS, OHE developed a marketing campaign for the program with an emphasis on outreach to all active emergency medical technicians (EMT), advanced emergency medical technicians (AEMT), and emergency medical responders (EMR) in Minnesota. AEMTs and EMTs can begin paramedic programs with their current license, whereas EMRs are not able to start paramedic programs until they earn an EMT credential. Emails sent to EMRs from OHE encouraged them to become EMTs before the Fall 2024 semester so they could later enroll in a paramedic program. Per the language in the statute, students may receive the full \$5,000 scholarship up to two times, for a total of \$10,000.

Table 1. Active License Holders for Emergency Medical Services in Minnesota

License	Active License Holders (September 2023)
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	10,354
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	91
Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)	16,053

On January 3, 2024, the 2024-2025 online application opened for submissions. As of January 8, 2025, 827 applications have been submitted.

Eligible students must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Paramedic Scholarship:

- Submit the online Paramedic Scholarship application on the OHE website,
- meet the definition of a Minnesota resident student under Minnesota statute [136A.101, subdivision 8](#)¹,
- attend an eligible institution defined under Minnesota statute [136A.101, subdivision 4](#)²,
- be enrolled in a nationally accredited, degree- or diploma-awarding paramedic program, and
- affirm their intent to work as a paramedic in Minnesota after graduation.

¹ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101#stat.136A.101.8>

² <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101>

Eligible Institutions

Eligible institutions and programs for the Paramedic Scholarship are listed below:

Anoka Technical College

Paramedic AA Degree (60 credits)

- Program Location: 1355 Highway 10, Anoka, MN 55303
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$14,477
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$600
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 60, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Paramedic Diploma (45 credits)

- Program Location: 1355 Highway 10, Anoka, MN 55303
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$10,858
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$600
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 60, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Century College

Paramedic Fire Science AAS Degree (68 credits)

- Program Location: East Campus, 3300 Century Ave N, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$14,501
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,055
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 22
- Program Acceptance Rate: 89%

Paramedic AAS Degree (60 credits)

- Program Location: East Campus, 3300 Century Ave N, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$12,795
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,055
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 66, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 60%

Paramedic Diploma (47 credits)

- Program Location: East Campus, 3300 Century Ave N, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$10,023
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,055
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 66, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 60%

Inver Hills Community College

EMS AS Degree (70 credits)

- Program Location: 2500 80th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$17,253
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,200

- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 24, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Paramedic Diploma (40 credits)

- Program Location: 2500 80th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$9,870
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,200
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 24, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Minnesota North College

Paramedic AA Degree (67 credits)

- Program Location: Eveleth Campus, 1100 Industrial Pkwy, Eveleth, MN 55734
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$15,074
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,250
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 20, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Paramedic Diploma (52 credits)

- Program Location: Eveleth Campus, 1100 Industrial Pkwy, Eveleth, MN 55734
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$12,063
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,900
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 20, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Northland Community & Technical College

Paramedic AAS Degree (60 credits)

- Program Location: 2022 Central Ave NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$14,070
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,520
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 10, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Paramedic Diploma (48 credits)

- Program Location: 2022 Central Ave NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$11,566
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,520
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 10, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Rochester Community & Technical College

Emergency Medicine Paramedic AS Degree (75 credits)

20-month program in affiliation with the Mayo School of Health Sciences

- Program Locations: Rochester C&TC, 851 30th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904 and Mayo Clinic Ambulance, 4505 West Michigan St, Duluth, MN 55807
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$19,735
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,300
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 20
- Program Acceptance Rate: 70%

Ridgewater College

Paramedic AAS Degree (60 credits)

- Program Location: 2101 15th Ave NW, Wilmar, MN 56201
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$12,226
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,546
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 22, raised to 30 in fiscal year 2025 due to increased demand, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Paramedic Diploma (46 credits)

- Program Location: 2101 15th Ave NW, Wilmar, MN 56201
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$9,373
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,546
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 22, raised to 30 in fiscal year 2025 due to increased demand, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Saint Cloud Technical & Community College

Paramedicine AAS Degree (60 credits)

- Program Location: 1540 Northway Dr, St. Cloud, MN 56303
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$13,843
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$1,565
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 22
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

South Central College

Intensive Care Paramedic Technician AAS Degree (67 credits)

- Program Location: North Mankato Campus, 1920 Lee Blvd, North Mankato, MN 56003
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$13,754
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,500
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 25, combined with diploma program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Intensive Care Paramedic Technician Diploma (58 credits)

- Program Location: North Mankato Campus, 1920 Lee Blvd, North Mankato, MN 56003
- Total Program Tuition and Fees: \$11,907
- Total Program Books and Supplies: \$2,500
- Enrollment Capacity Per Year: 25, combined with degree program
- Program Acceptance Rate: 100%

Award Information

The Paramedic Scholarship award information below includes Fall-only awards for students graduating in Fall 2024, and Fall/Spring awards for students attending both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 terms. Century College has the most paramedic seats (either 66 or 88 if the Century College Fire Science Paramedic program is running) and therefore has the most scholarship recipients. Northland Community and Technical College has the fewest award recipients; however, they also have the lowest enrollment capacity per year and many of the students in their program are North Dakota residents who do not qualify for the Paramedic Scholarship.

Table 2. Paramedic Scholarship Recipients and Award Amounts by Institution

Institution	Scholarship Recipients	Award Amount
Anoka Technical College	47	\$232,500
Century College	75	\$370,000
Inver Hills CC	39	\$195,000
Minnesota North College	34	\$167,500
Northland C&TC	*	\$10,000
Ridgewater College	27	\$135,000
Rochester C&TC	*	\$35,000
Saint Cloud T&CC	39	\$152,500
South Central College	28	\$140,000
Totals	298	\$1,437,500

* Data suppressed due to number of applications < 10

Demographic Information

The student demographics below are for recipients of the Paramedic Scholarship, so far, for fiscal year 2025.

Age

When completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the state financial aid application, all students age 24 and older are considered independent students who do not need to provide parent information. At this point in the award cycle, 63% of Paramedic Scholarship recipients are age 24 or older, while 36% of recipients are age 23 or younger.

Table 3. Paramedic Scholarship Recipients by Age Group

Age Group	Number of recipients	Percentage
17 to 23	108	36%
24 to 30	93	31%
31 to 37	43	14%
38 to 44	29	10%
44 and over	25	8%

Gender

A majority, 56%, of the Paramedic Scholarship recipients identify as male, 39% identify as female and the remaining 5% were unavailable or missing. This is significantly different compared to the gender breakdown for current, active paramedics. The percentage of paramedic scholarship recipients who identify as female is 9% higher than the percentage of female active paramedics.

Table 4. Paramedic Scholarship Recipients and Active Paramedics by Gender

Gender	Paramedic Scholarship Recipients	Active Paramedics
Male	56%	68%
Female	39%	30%
Unavailable/Missing	5%	2%

Appendix A

Minnesota H.F. No. 2073 2023 Legislative Session

Sec. 31. **PARAMEDIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

Subd. 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education shall establish a program to provide up to 600 scholarships to students entering paramedic programs by 2026.

Subd. 2. **Eligible students.**

(a) To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, a student must:

- (1) apply in the form and manner specified by the commissioner;
- (2) be a resident student, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101, subdivision 8;
- (3) attend an eligible institution, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101, subdivision 4;
- (4) be enrolled in a nationally accredited, degree- or diploma-awarding paramedic program at that institution; and
- (5) submit to the commissioner a completed affidavit, prescribed by the commissioner, affirming the student's intent to work as a paramedic in Minnesota after graduation.

(b) An eligible student may receive a scholarship under this section no more than two times.

Subd. 3. **Administration**; award amount.

(a) The commissioner must establish an application process and other guidelines for implementing the paramedic scholarship program. The first set of scholarships must be awarded for the 2024-2025 academic year.

(b) The amount of a scholarship awarded under this section is \$5,000. The scholarship must be paid in a lump sum directly to the institution where the recipient is enrolled.

Subd. 4. **Reporting.** By February 1, 2025, and again by February 1, 2026, the commissioner must submit a report on the program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education finance and policy. The report must include the following information and any other information the commissioner considers relevant:

- (1) information about all postsecondary programs giving rise to eligibility for a scholarship under this section, including the programs' locations, costs, enrollment capacities, acceptance rates, and other relevant information;
- (2) available data on the current and forecasted demand for paramedics in Minnesota; and
- (3) the total number of scholarships issued, disaggregated by:
 - i. year of award;
 - ii. postsecondary institution attended; and
 - iii. relevant and available demographic data about award recipients.

Subd. 5. **Expiration.** This section expires June 30, 2026.

Appendix B

OHE Data Suppression Policy for Student Information

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the protection of private data on students when releasing summary data about our institutions and students.

Increased attention to education has led to an expansion in the amount of information on students and institutions reported by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE). Such reports offer a challenge of meeting reporting requirements while also meeting legal requirements to protect each student's personally identifiable information (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA]) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). Recognizing this, subgroup disaggregation of the data may not be published if the results would yield personally identifiable information about an individual student (or if the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information). States are required to define a minimum number of students in a reporting group or subgroup required to publish results consistent with the protection of personally identifiable information (34 CFR § 200.7).

Scope

This policy applies to all public reports generated by employees, agents, or contractors of OHE.

Policy

OHE may release summary data, including aggregate student counts for all groups including those of less than 10. However, OHE may not release any other information regarding the group depending on the sensitive nature of the data.

Other information is defined as information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school (institution) community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty. Other information may include, but is not limited to: gender or sex, gender identity, race/ethnicity, Tribal affiliation, disability, citizenship, income and wages, expected contributions, cumulative debt, and birth date or birthplace information. Other information also includes aid awarded for the following programs, including but not limited to: Postsecondary Child Care Grants, Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program, MN Reconnect, Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant, Teacher Candidate Grants, Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and State Grant.

OHE may suppress other information for aggregate student counts of less than 10 for the following reasons:

- the information could identify an individual, or

- the report will be released to an audience that includes recipients other than individuals to whom OHE may disclose personally identifiable information pursuant to federal or state law.

In addition to suppressing small cells, OHE may:

- Recode categories with values of 95 to 100 percent to greater than or equal to 95 percent (≥ 95 percent), and
- Recode categories with values of 0 to 5 percent to less than or equal to 5 percent (≤ 5 percent).

Unforeseen circumstances, such as a pandemic or natural disaster, may affect the integrity of annually collected data. OHE will consider and decide upon potentially adjusted reporting and suppression strategies in such extraordinary times.

Individuals and organizations to which OHE discloses information will be directed that its re-disclosure to anyone who is not authorized to receive that information under state and/or federal law is prohibited. Disclosure of data by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education is subject to Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (34 CFR Part 99.31).

Additionally, any use of education records by another state agency, its employees, agents, or contractors is subject to and shall be consistent with applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) including, but not limited to, FERPA regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.32 through 99.35, regarding recordkeeping, redisclosure, and destruction of education records.

Definitions

- Personally identifiable information (PII): Data that identifies the individual. For the purposes of education records, PII is defined by federal law as information that includes, but is not limited to a student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school (institution) community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; and information requested by a person who the educational agency or institution reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.
- Summary Data: Statistical records and reports aggregated from data on individuals in a way that individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable.

Classification of Information

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 13.02, subdivision 12 and Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 136A.162, data on students collected and used by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education are private data on individuals, including data on applicants for financial assistance collected and used by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for student financial aid programs administered by that office.



2025