

Statewide Electronic Infrastructure to Support Academic and Workforce Success:

Report to the Legislature

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
January 15, 2015



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Executive Summary

This report to the governor and legislature is submitted as required by Minnesota 2013 Session Laws Chapter 136F Section 595 (Appendix A), which requires the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to report on the electronic infrastructure available to support academic and workplace success. Collectively, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the University of Minnesota (U of MN), the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE), and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) make available to students an extensive infrastructure that supports academic and workforce success (see chart of electronic tools, page 2). For every functional category, electronic infrastructure is available free to all users generally or free to users specifically connected to one of the collaborating agencies (MDE, U of MN, DEED, MOHE, and MnSCU).

Across Minnesota, collaborating agencies (MDE, U of MN, DEED, MOHE, and MnSCU) serve a variety of populations who can benefit from electronic infrastructure. Fortunately, technologies for academic and workplace success continue to multiply and are widely available with several options incurring no cost to use. In addition, electronic portfolio options and other tools readily support student transitions from secondary to postsecondary schools and work.

The Board of Trustees and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have transferred full ownership of eFolioMinnesota to AVENET and have fulfilled the commitment to support eFolioMinnesota and GPS Lifeplan through June 30, 2015.

Introduction

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, along with the other state agencies identified in Appendix B, in providing an electronic infrastructure to support academic and workplace success. The collaborating state agencies (Appendix B) reached consensus on this report.

Diverse Student and Worker Needs

Across Minnesota, populations served by the collaborating state agencies are diverse and their needs for electronic infrastructure are equally so. A few of the populations include the following:

- Students who enter the workforce directly from high school
- Students who need to be challenged academically through early college programs such as Advanced Placement, concurrent enrollment, postsecondary education options (PSEO) and International Baccalaureate
- Students from traditionally underrepresented groups who need significant support to understand and navigate college information and financial literacy
- Non-traditional students who seek short-term retraining to advance their careers
- Students who participate in adult basic education to gain foundational skills to prepare for career or postsecondary education
- College and university graduates who seek employment or graduate level training
- Unemployed workers who need retraining

Existing electronic infrastructure responds to the diversity of needs. As the chart (page 5) reflects, electronic tools provide functionality ranging from career exploration to college readiness to building a resume.

Collaborative initiatives

The following collaborative initiatives help a wide range of populations achieve academic and workplace success, supported by technology. One or more of the state agency collaborators named in the request for this report is involved with each of the initiatives. The electronic tools that support these initiatives are identified by function, corresponding with the electronic tools chart (page 5).

- **The transition from secondary to postsecondary and employment legislation** is in full implementation and applies to all students starting no later than grade 9. The Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities reviewed the plan that is being implemented: secondary students exploring college and career options and establishing an appropriate and individualized academic path (*tools: academic planner, career exploration, college exploration, college and career readiness, electronic portfolio*).

- The Minnesota Department of Education facilitated the **Career Pathways and Technical Education Advisory Task Force**, with support from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, and others to review the structural redesign of secondary and postsecondary education to improve transitions; the work concluded and a report was submitted January 2014 (*tools: academic planner, career exploration, college exploration, career and college readiness, electronic portfolio*).
- The **Career and College Readiness Collaborative** is a grassroots effort that includes over 100 individuals from elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, workforce development, business, community organizations, and other entities which contribute to career development activities. The collaborative helps to provide students with the resources necessary to be successful in education, career goals, and lifelong learning (*tools: academic planner, career exploration, college exploration, career and college readiness, electronic portfolio*).
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities **Charting the Future** outlines a path to a more prosperous Minnesota by increasing access, affordability, and excellence in our colleges and universities. (*tools: academic planner, career exploration, college exploration, career and college readiness, electronic portfolio, teaching and learning*).
- The University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota Department of Economic and Employment Development, private companies and others are collaborating on the **Itasca Project** to ensure a prepared workforce is available to meet the skills expected by employers today and the years ahead (*tools: academic planner, career exploration, college exploration, career and college readiness*).

Technology Landscape

As demonstrated in the chart of available electronic tools (page 5), there are broad categories of technology, and many tools provide functionality in more than one category. For most categories, the marketplace of tools is very mature. This means that vendors provide similar functionality, and that purchasing or usage decisions are often based on price or niche functionality. However, no one tool satisfies every student and worker need. Finally, just as public transportation supports high school students, college students and workers in different ways (e.g. high school buses, city buses, and light rail), technology tools are often tailored to the student populations that are served.

Electronic Tools that Support Academic and Workforce Success¹ By Function²

Academic Planner	Career Exploration	College Exploration	Career and College Readiness	Electronic Portfolio	Resume Builder	Teaching and Learning
Examples of Tools Currently in Use³						
MCIS	MCIS	MCIS	NCRC	MCIS	MCIS	Elm Library
Naviance	Naviance	Naviance	SAT	Naviance	Naviance	Minitex
Agilegrad	Career Onestop	GPS Lifeplan	Accuplacer	eFolioMn	eFolioMn	Blackboard
DARS/uachieve	Discover	ISEEK	ACT	Linkedin (free to user/school/agency)	Linkedin (free to user/school/agency)	Desire2Learn
Taskstream	MN works	Ready Set Go	Compass	Orgsync	MN works	MnLink
T20K	My skills my future		Explore	Taskstream		Moodle
U of M grad planner	O NET online		EdReady	T20K		Socrates
Docufide	Strengthfinder		Readistep	Manage Bac		SoftChalk
Manage Bac	ISEEK		PSAT	Google Sites (free to user/school/agency)		NROC
e-services	Mnprogramsofstudy.org	Mnprogramsofstudy.org	WorkKeys			Respondus
LMI wise	Mncareerspathways.org	Mncareerspathways.org	MyFoundationsLab	Parchment		Sophia
			Mnprogramsofstudy.org			
			Mncareerspathways.org			
Examples of Other Available Tools⁴						
Apt.student	My Next Move	Big Future	PARCC	Campuslabs	Free Resume Builder (free to user/school/agency)	Campus
Student Success Plan (free to user/school/agency)	ASVAB	Education Planner	Smarter Balance	Carbonmade	Live Career (free to user/school/agency)	Canvas by Instructure
My Academic Plan (free to user/school/agency)	Education Planner	My Road		Chalkandwire	Goto Resume Builder	CCKF
	My Road	Student edge		Desire2Learn eportfolio	Resume Linked in	Cengage Learning
	ACT	Mapping your future		Digication	My Future (free to user/school/agency)	Cognizant
	Your free career test	College Explorations		Digitalmeasures	Career Ignitor	CourseNetworking
	Student edge	Exploring College Options		Livebeinders (free to user/school/agency)	My Perfect Resume	Sakai
	Mapping your future	Collegetoolkit		Clippings.me (free to user/school/agency)	Resume Genius (free to user/school/agency)	OpenClass

¹ The chart includes some of the tools available to students and workers served by the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the University of Minnesota. Specific tools are available to different populations based upon the needs of students and workers.

² A glossary of functions is on page 6.

³ Some of the names are registered trademarks.

⁴ In most categories the list of tools that could be purchased by schools or agencies was too long to list; those listed are examples of what is available.

Glossary of Academic and Workforce Success Functions

An **Academic planner** helps students plan which courses they need to take to meet their college and career goals and find the right courses to help bridge the gap between college eligibility and college readiness. This includes the data checking with the school curriculum.

A **Career Exploration tool** enables students to take career assessments (e.g., interest and skill) for self-awareness and provides information about career options (e.g., salaries, in-demand, and education requirements) to make strong matches between individual goals and education and career pathways that fit them.

A **College Exploration** tool provides information about the types of postsecondary institutions such as courses, programs, degrees, institutional size, cost, location, student body, accreditation, admission requirements, student services, and more so that students can explore options that best fit them.

A **College Readiness** tool provides students with vital information in regard to their progress toward college preparation, and enables students to adjust their high school schedule to align with career aspirations.

An **Electronic Portfolio (repository for learning and work artifacts)** enables students to save and organize documents, images, and multimedia files related to their academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and career goals.

A **Resume Builder** provides the ability to create a customizable resume using templates to input individual data following standards recognized by employers, resulting in a document that can be saved, shared, and printed.

A **Teaching and Learning** platform helps teachers and students to ensure students are on track to success. This category includes primary teaching and learning tools, and library tools, but does not include tools from other categories.

Appendix A

Minnesota Session Laws Chapter 136F Section 595

The Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Department of Education, the Office of Higher Education, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall collaborate to implement an electronic infrastructure to support academic and workforce success statewide. The infrastructure shall first utilize existing assets, tools, and services, including but not limited to eFolioMinnesota and GPS Lifeplan. To facilitate implementation of this section, the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall support efolioMinnesota and GPS Lifeplan until at least June 30, 2015. To the extent possible, the basic electronic infrastructure shall be available at no charge to all state residents and to all students attending Minnesota educational institutions.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may enhance the efolioMinnesota platform to allow, at a minimum, implementation of: (1) a portfolio-based individual learning plan solution that includes comprehensive academic and life planning instruments, to support student transitions to postsecondary school or to work; and (2) a student-owned proficiency portfolio solution to support student transitions to the workplace and employers seeking first-day-work-ready employees.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may seek and accept contributions from individuals, businesses, and other organizations to support the goals required by this section. The parties listed in subdivision 1 are not required to contribute. All contributions received are appropriated to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and shall be administered as directed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and universities shall submit, no later than January 15 of each year, a report to the governor and legislature on the progress of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's activities related to implementation of this section.

Appendix B

State agencies who collaborated on this report

Minnesota Department of Education

Paula Palmer, Director of Career and College Success

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Rick Roy, Director, Workforce System Coordination

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Megan FitzGibbon, Manager of State Scholarship Programs

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Kim Lynch, Senior System Director for Educational Innovations

University of Minnesota

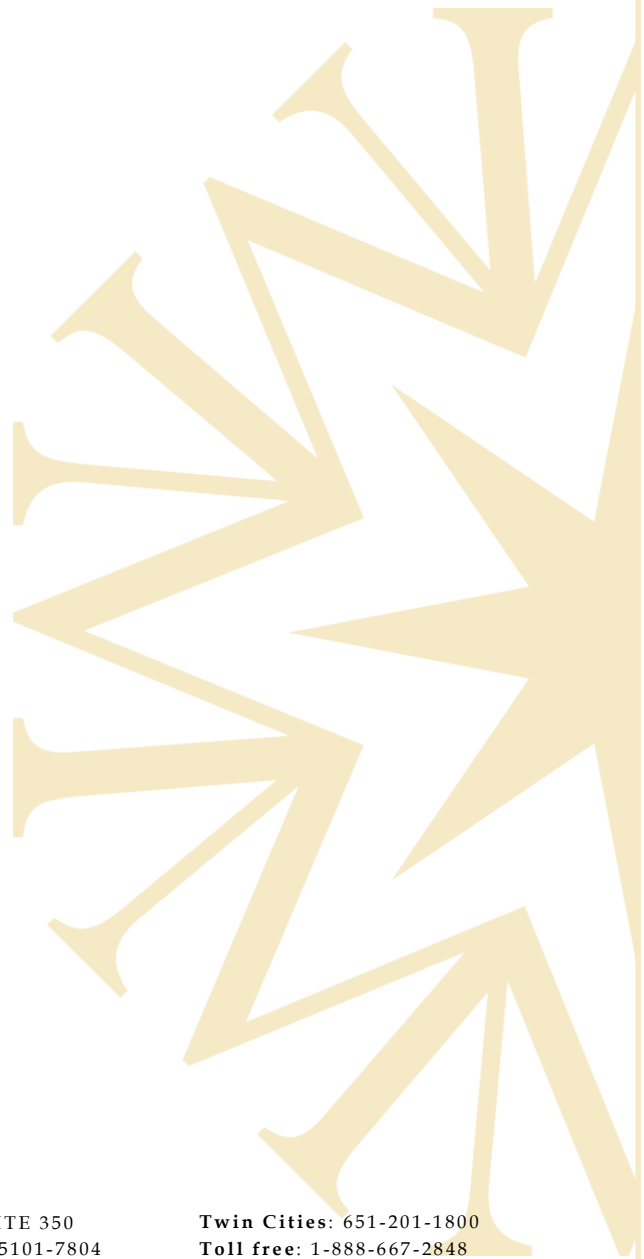
Bernard Gulachek, Associate Vice President of Information Technology



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