

FACT SHEET | Higher Education

Budget for a Better Minnesota

Last session, Governor Dayton and the Legislature reversed a decade of funding cuts, investing \$250 million in initiatives to make higher education more affordable for thousands of students. The Governor's supplemental budget proposal would build on those investments, making higher education system even more affordable for thousands of students and recent graduates.

Supporting Minnesota Students and Recent Graduates

- **Student Loan Tax Deductions.** Under the Governor's tax plan, 285,000 recent college graduates would be eligible for up to \$190 per year by providing them the option to deduct their student loan interest.
- **Tuition Tax Reductions.** Governor Dayton's tax plan would provide 40,000 Minnesota college students an average tuition tax deduction of \$140 per year.
- **Expanded Education Saving Accounts.** The Governor's plan would allow Minnesotans to contribute up to \$2,000 into an Education Savings Account per year.
- **Larger State Grant Awards.** The Governor's budget would increase State Grants for students by up to \$510 for a maximum of \$10,960 per year.
 - **Assisting More Minnesota Students.** The Governor's proposal also would allow an additional 4,450 Minnesotans to be eligible for the State Grant Program.
 - **New Aid for Middle Class Students.** Governor Dayton's proposal would ensure that more middle class students are eligible for financial aid – helping them get the education they need for good jobs and bright futures.
- **Child Care Grants for Adult Students.** Child care can be a significant challenge for adult learners continuing their education. By making Minnesota's Postsecondary Child Care Grant program more flexible, the Governor's proposal would provide child care assistance to an additional 300 students with children.

Strengthening Higher Education in Minnesota

- **Aid for University of Minnesota – Duluth.** The University of Minnesota Duluth currently is facing a budget deficit. The Governor's supplemental budget would allocate \$5 million in additional funding to help preserve the University's strong academic programs.
- **Supporting Minnesota Colleges and Universities.** Governor Dayton's supplemental budget recommends additional resources for MnSCU to ensure colleges and universities across Minnesota can retain great faculty and staff.

Higher Education Investments – By the Numbers

285,000	Number of recent college graduate eligible for student loan tax deduction
40,000	Minnesota college students who would benefit from tuition tax credits
\$10,960	Maximum State Grant award if the Governor's proposal is enacted