

# Legislative Reports

## Report on Minnesota Students in Travel Abroad Programs 2020-21

Minnesota Statutes, section 5A.03, subdivision 2 requires the Minnesota Department of Education to:

1. Annually report information on the number of Minnesota student deaths and hospitalizations due to accidents and the illnesses that occurred while Minnesota students were participating in a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program that resulted from Minnesota students participating in the program. The name and type of foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program and the city or region where the reported death, hospitalization due to accident or illness occurred must also be reported.
2. Include links to both the United States Department of State's Consular Information Program that informs the public of conditions abroad that may affect students' safety and security.

Publicly available reports on sexual assaults and other criminal acts affecting students participating in a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program must also be included.

### School year 2020-21

During the 2020-21 school year, **no incidents of travel** related illness that required hospitalization or deaths were reported.

### Information on Areas not deemed safe for Travel

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Fact Book provides information about country profiles. The section of the World Fact book country profiles describes a country's historical relations with the U.S. and any recent military conflicts, which may inform a district or charter's decision to travel to that country. The website also provides periodic updates about changing conditions that may be relevant to traveler safety.

Office of Higher Education Study Abroad Health and Safety Report provides health and safety information for college students attending a Minnesota campus or studying abroad. The Study Abroad Health and Safety Data report on death and hospitalization incidents that occurred during and as a result of program participation from the previous academic year is updated annually.

Students Abroad, a U.S. Department of State consular affairs website, provides comprehensive information on specific destinations by country. The site includes information for students with special considerations – such as women, travelers with disabilities and LGBTI travelers. Travel advisories can be seen on a color coded map.

Additionally, you can search for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate and find a list of resources on their website.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime produces and disseminates accurate statistics on drugs, crime and criminal justice at the international level. Your search can be filtered by type of crime, region and country.

U.S. Department of State provides information about international travel including an option to enroll in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), a free service that allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Be sure to check for [travel advisories](#) and information or [guidance on how to prepare in case something goes wrong overseas](#).

Travel advisories that are updated daily can be seen on a [color coded map on the Department of State's website](#).

## Information and data on Sexual Assault and other Criminal Acts

Data on reported sexual assaults and other criminal acts affecting students on college campuses and students participating in study and travel abroad programs are available through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) Office of Higher Education.

Please Note: The Office of Higher Education adheres to current federal and state data privacy laws to protect the privacy of individual students. Reports and data required by Minnesota Statutes, section 135A.15, subdivision 6 will be prepared and published as summary data, as defined in [Minnesota Statutes, section 13.02, subdivision 19](#), and will be consistent with federal and state laws governing access to educational data and student privacy.

The Study Abroad Health and Safety Report is provided by the OHE to report study abroad health and safety incident data in addition to data on student participation. The annual report for 2015-19 can be seen by country on the [Study Abroad Health and Safety report](#).

### ***Student Safety Resources***

General safety information resources available to students in higher education is also relevant for students in secondary programs.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) provides valuable [information for travelers](#).
- [Minnesota Office of Higher Education Study Abroad Health and Safety Resources for Students and Parents](#)
- [Office of Higher Education: International Students and Study Abroad](#)
- [Students Abroad, U.S. Department of State Website](#)
- [StudentsAbroad](#), a website by the Center for Global Education, offers basic health and safety information including top ten health and safety issues for students in study abroad programs.
- [University of Minnesota's Learning Abroad Center](#) provides multiple resources on health and safety abroad.
- [U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs Travel Information](#) provides comprehensive information for travelers.

## Licensing Questions?

Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB)

651-539-4200

Email: [pelsb@state.mn.us](mailto:pelsb@state.mn.us)

Board of School Administrators (BOSA)

651-582-8754

Email: [mde.bosa@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.bosa@state.mn.us)