



Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Annual Report

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About the 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 more than \$224 million annually 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 \$661.90 to prepare, including staff time.

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Introduction

The 2021 Legislature enacted the Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas (Formerly Teacher Candidate Grants), Minnesota Statutes 136A.1275.

The Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas (STSA) program is designed to provide postsecondary financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in Minnesota teacher preparation programs during one term in which the student is completing a required 12 week or more student teaching experience. To be eligible, students must intend to teach in a license shortage area or rural school district after graduating and receiving their teaching license.

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) is required to submit an annual report by February 1 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over E-12 and higher education finance and policy. The report must include: (1) the total number of awards, the total dollar amount of all awards, and the average amount, (2) the number of eligible applicants and the number of student teachers receiving an award, each broken down by postsecondary institution, (3) the licensure areas and school districts in which the student teachers taught, and (4) other summary data identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators, including how many student teachers awarded in a rural teacher grant were employed in a rural school district after graduation.

This report will provide summary data for fiscal year 2023.

Financial Summary

Table 1 summarizes the Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas (STSA) appropriation amounts. If there is a projected surplus in this program or the Underrepresented Student Teacher Grant Program, Minnesota Session Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Sec 2, Subd. 42 authorizes the OHE Commissioner to transfer unencumbered funds to meet demand. During FY2023, the OHE Commissioner approved a transfer of \$200,000 from the Underrepresented Student Teacher Grant Program to the Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas program.

Table 1. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Appropriation Summary

FY	Appropriation	Administrative	Funds Transferred	Amount Available for Awards
2022	\$500,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$485,000.00
2023	\$500,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$685,000.00

Applications and Awards

Fiscal Year 2023 (2022-2023 Award Year)

The 2022-2023 Application was released on May 18, 2022.

There were insufficient funds to award all eligible applications in both fall and spring terms, all eligible applications received by the priority application deadlines with the highest financial need who indicated they intended to teach in both a rural school district and a license shortage area were awarded first. Then, students with the lowest EFC and the highest remaining need were awarded. Eligible students not awarded were placed on a waitlist.

In FY2023, 523 applications were received from eligible students attending 26 postsecondary institutions. Of the 523 applications, 107 eligible students attending 21 institutions received awards. All available funds (\$685,000) were disbursed to the 107 awarded students. The average award amount was \$6,401.87.

The following tables provide application and award data for FY2023 by postsecondary institution.

Table 2. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Application and Awards Summary Fiscal Year 2023

Institution Name	Total # of Applications	Total # Awards
Augsburg University	19	*
Bemidji State University	29	*
Bethany Lutheran College	*	*
Bethel University	*	*
College of St. Benedict	*	*
College of St. Scholastica	14	*
Concordia College, Moorhead	11	*
Concordia University, St. Paul	11	*
Gustavus Adolphus College	*	*
Hamline University	17	*
Metropolitan State University	17	*
Minnesota State University, Mankato	21	*
Minnesota State University, Moorhead	18	*
Southwest Minnesota State University	28	11
St. Catherine University	*	*
St. Cloud State University	59	*
St. Mary's University of Minnesota	*	*
St. Olaf College	*	*
University of Minnesota, Crookston	10	*
University of Minnesota, Duluth	33	*
University of Minnesota, Morris	*	*

Institution Name	Total # of Applications	Total # Awards
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	68	28
University of Northwestern, St. Paul	*	*
University of St. Thomas	59	18
Walden University	*	*
Winona State University	65	*
TOTAL	523	107

* data suppressed due to # of applications < 10

Experiences

The table below lists the licensure areas in which STSA Grant Recipients completed their student teaching experiences in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Table 3. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Award Licensure Areas Fiscal Year 2023

Licensure Fields
Agriculture Education
Chemistry
Communication Arts and Literature
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Elementary Education
English as a Second Language
General Science
German
Health and Physical Education
Life Sciences
Mathematics
Parent and Family Education
Physics
Social Studies
Spanish
Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist
Visual Arts

The table below lists the School Districts in which STSA Grant Recipients completed their student teaching experiences in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Table 4. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Award School Districts Fiscal Year 2023

Aitkin Public Schools	Ivanhoe Public Schools
Albert Lea Area Schools	Kasson Mantorville Public Schools
Alden-Conger Public School District	Lac qui Parle Valley School District
Anoka-Hennepin Schools	Mankato Area Public Schools
Austin Public Schools	Maple Lake Public Schools
Bemidji Area Schools	Marshall Public School District
Bertha-Hewitt Public Schools	Medford Public School
Bigfork Public Schools	Minneapolis Public Schools
Bloomington Public Schools	Minnetonka Public Schools

Brooklyn Center Community Schools	Montevideo Public Schools
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools	Mounds View Public Schools
Byron Public Schools	Osseo Area Schools
Cambridge-Isanti Public School District	Richfield Public Schools
Cloquet Public Schools	Rochester Public Schools
Columbia Heights Public Schools	Rocori School District
Cook County Schools	Roseau Community School District
Duluth Public Schools	Roseville Area Schools
Eastern Carver County Schools	Round Lake - Brewster School District
Eden Prairie Public Schools	Saint Paul Public Schools
Floodwood School District	St. Anthony - New Brighton School District
Forest Lake Independent School District	St. Cloud Area School District
Fridley Public Schools	St. Louis Park Public School District
Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools	St. Michael - Albertville School District
Greenway Public Schools	Waterville - Elysian - Morristown School District
Hawley Public Schools	Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Schools
Hopkins Public Schools	White Bear Lake Area Schools
Howard Lake - Waverly - Winsted Public Schools	Willmar Public Schools
Independence School District (WI)	Windom Area Schools
Independent School District 318	

Appendix A: Minnesota Office of Higher Education 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, re-disclosure, 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.



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