



Student Teachers 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 \$809.82 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 2024.

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 (USTG), Minnesota Session Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Sec 2, Subd. 42 authorizes the OHE Commissioner to transfer unencumbered funds to meet demand.

During FY2024, the OHE Commissioner approved a transfer of \$730,000 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
2024	\$1,300,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$730,000	\$1,991,000.00
2025	\$1,300,000.00	\$39,000.00		\$1,261,000.00

Applications and Awards

Fiscal Year 2024 (2023-2024 Award Year)

The 2023-2024 Application was released on June 8, 2023.

In FY2024, 516 applications were received from 29 postsecondary institutions. Out of the 516 applications, 280 students were identified as eligible and all eligible students received awards.

There were insufficient funds to award all eligible students in both fall and spring terms. Eligible applications received by the priority 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 highest financial need were awarded. Eligible students not awarded due to insufficient funds were initially placed on a waitlist. Once the transfer from the USTG was made, OHE was able to provide awards to all students and no students remained on the waitlist.

The amount of available funds for the fiscal year is separately allocated by term. OHE paid \$693,969 in Fall 2023 term awards, \$1,011,346 in Spring 2024 term awards, and \$7,500 in Summer 2024 term awards. A net total of \$1,712,815 was disbursed to 280 eligible students. The average award amount was \$6,117.20.

The following tables provide application and award data for FY2024 by postsecondary institution.

Table 2. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Application and Awards Summary Fiscal Year 2024

Institution Name	Total # of Applications	Total # Awards
Augsburg University	13	*
Bemidji State University	34	16
Bethany Lutheran College	*	*
Bethel University	18	*
College of St. Benedict	*	*
College of St. Scholastica	13	10
Concordia College, Moorhead	24	*
Concordia University, St. Paul	*	*
Crown College	*	*
Gustavus Adolphus College	*	*
Hamline University	10	*
Metropolitan State University	14	*
Minnesota State University, Mankato	36	14
Minnesota State University, Moorhead	19	13
North Central University	*	*
Southwest Minnesota State University	43	28
St. Catherine University	*	*

Institution Name	Total # of Applications	Total # Awards
St. Cloud State University	24	16
St. John's University	*	*
St. Mary's University of Minnesota	13	*
St. Olaf College	*	*
University of Minnesota, Crookston	*	*
University of Minnesota, Duluth	29	13
University of Minnesota, Morris	11	*
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	71	42
University of Northwestern, St. Paul	*	*
University of St. Thomas	47	26
Walden University	*	*
Winona State University	45	22
TOTAL	516	280

* 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 2023-2024 academic year.

Table 3. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Award Licensure Areas Fiscal Year 2024

Licensure Fields
Agriculture Education
Business
Chemistry
Communication Arts and Literature
Early Childhood Education
Earth and Space
Elementary Education
English as a Second Language
Family and Consumer Science
French
German
Life Science
Mathematics
Parent and Family Education
Physical Education
Health
Social Studies
Spanish
Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist
Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorders
Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education
Special Education: Emotional or Behavior Disorders
Special Education: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Special Education: Developmental Disabilities
Special Education: Emotional or Behavior Disorders
Teachers of Music: Instrumental
Teachers of Music: Vocal
Technology
Theater
Visual Arts

The table below lists the School Districts in which STSA grant recipients completed their student teaching experiences in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Table 4. Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas Award School Districts Fiscal Year 2024

Alexandria Public Schools	Marshall Public Schools
Anoka-Hennepin School District	Martin County West School District
Armstrong School District	Menahga Public Schools
Austin Public Schools	Milaca Public Schools
Bagley Public School District	Minneapolis Public Schools
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Public Schools	Minnetonka Public Schools
Bemidji Area Schools	Montevideo Public Schools
Benson Public Schools	Monticello School District
Blooming Prairie Public Schools	Moorhead Area Public Schools
Bloomington Public Schools	Mora Public Schools
Brainerd Public Schools	Mounds View Public Schools
Buffalo Hanover Montrose Schools	New London-Spicer School District
Buffalo Lake-Hector-Steward Schools	New Prague Area Schools
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191	New York Mills Public Schools
Byron Public Schools	Northfield Public High school
Cambridge-Isanti Schools	Osseo Area Schools
Cedar Mountain School District	Paynesville Area Schools
Centennial School District	Pierz Public Schools
Chatfield Public Schools	Prior Lake Savage Area Schools
Chisholm Public Schools	Proctor Public Schools
Columbia Heights Public Schools	Red Wing Public Schools
Dassel-Cokato School District	Richfield Public Schools
Denver Public Schools	Robbinsdale Area Public Schools
Detroit Lakes Public Schools	Rochester Public Schools
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Public Schools	Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
Dover-Eyota Public Schools	Roseville Area Schools
Duluth Public Schools	Roseville Joint Union High School District
Eastern Carver County Schools	Royalton Public Schools
Edina Public Schools	Rush City Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools	Rushford-Peterson Public Schools
Fairmont Area Schools	Saint Paul Public Schools
Fargo Public Schools	Sauk Centre Public Schools
Faribault Public Schools	Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
Farmington Public Schools	School District of Holmen
Fergus Falls Public Schools	School District of La Crosse
Forest Lake Area Schools	Shakopee Public Schools
Goodhue County Education District	South Washington County Schools

Grand Rapids Area Schools	Southland School District
Hawley Public Schools	Spring Lake Park Schools
Hiawatha Valley Education District	St. Charles Public Schools
Hibbing Public Schools	St. Clair Public School District
Hopkins Public Schools	St. Cloud Area School District
Howard Lake Waverly Winsted Public Schools	St. Francis Area Schools
Independent School District 4029	St. James Public Schools
Independent School District 4185	St. Louis County Schools
Intermediate School District 287	St. Louis Park Public Schools
Inver Grove Heights Schools	Stephan-Argyle Central Schools
Isle Public School District	Stewartville Public Schools
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Public School District	Thief River Falls Public Schools
Jordan Public Schools	United South Central School District
Kasson-Mantorville Schools	Waconia Public Schools
Kimball Area Public Schools	Waseca Public Schools
Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Public Schools	Wayzata Public Schools
La Crescent-Hokah Public Schools	West Central Area School District
Lac Qui Parle Valley School District	West Fargo Public Schools
Lake City Public Schools	West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools
Lake Superior School District	Wheaton Area Schools
Lakeville Public Schools	White Bear Lake Area Schools
Laporte Public School	Widefield School District
Luverne Public Schools	Willmar Public Schools
Mankato Area Public Schools	Winona Area Public Schools
Marshall County Central School District	Wrenshall School District

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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