

2024–2025

Minnesota Legislative Report

College Possible makes college admission and success possible for students from low-income backgrounds through intensive, curriculum-driven coaching and support.

Since 2014, College Possible Minnesota has received appropriations from State of Minnesota to expand our work across the state and support more students pursuing higher education. This report describes College Possible's impact as a result of that support.

COMMUNITY NEED

Compared to a decade ago, Minnesota has seen a 40% drop in higher education enrollment, with rates for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds dropping twice as much as students from higher-income households since 2019.¹ This trend was exacerbated by the pandemic, the repeal of affirmative action, and the flawed roll-out of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).² Nationally, FAFSA technical issues caused a 9% decline in first-time completions, further hindering access. Meanwhile, Minnesota faces one of the nation's largest college attainment gaps: only 32% of students from low-income backgrounds graduate, compared to 61% of their higher-income peers — a staggering 29-point disparity.³

PROVEN IMPACT

College Possible sees expanding access to higher education as a necessary step toward building an economy that works for everyone in Minnesota. College degrees disrupt the cycle of poverty and positively impact communities. When students from low-income backgrounds graduate, they are 3.5 times less likely to live in poverty and 24% more likely to be employed compared to peers who did not attend college.⁴ In a moment when college degrees are increasingly important but also increasingly inaccessible, College Possible's work is essential.

Proof of the College Possible program lies in short- and long-term results. In program year 2023–2024, 91% of high school seniors completed at least one college application, and 95% of seniors who applied for college were accepted into at least one best-fit college. A recent longitudinal study found that College Possible graduates have a 98% employment rate, with 94% holding health insurance and 83% saving for retirement. Additionally, 97% of alumni who are parents found it “likely” or “very likely” that their children will be able to attend college.⁵



¹ 2023 Minnesota Report Card, Minnesota Department of Education

² National College Attainment Network FAFSA Data Tracker

³ National Clearinghouse Research Center

⁴ Lumina Foundation, “Stronger Nation Report,” 2015.

⁵ 2019 College Possible Alumni Survey



HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION

Through a newly piloted student-facing data collection and college match software tool, students gain access to important resources that help them analyze and compare higher education institutions and financial aid opportunities as well as their return on investment. Students are supported by highly-trained coaches as they explore majors and career options, and learn about skills they need to gain before graduation. Through their portal, students complete personality, interest, and skills assessments matching them with potential career paths and majors. College Possible coaches review assessment results with students individually to discuss career earning potential and evaluate best-fit colleges. Students have access to this software at any time and are welcome to explore as many career paths as they choose.

DIRECT STUDENT AID

College Possible provides direct financial support to students facing unexpected financial challenges. Studies show that relatively small amounts of financial aid correlate with increased college persistence, with as little as \$1,500 to \$2,000 raising degree rates for low-income students by 8%.¹ During the 2023–2024 school year, College Possible awarded \$334,496 in scholarship and emergency funding to 196 college students. Of the recipients, 97% graduated with a degree or persisted into the next school year.

CAREER READINESS

Career-driven decision-making is infused into college access and success programming throughout the year. College Possible partners with local corporations and organizations to provide students with a range of career readiness opportunities and connect their college education to professional pathways. Programming is focused on the development of tangible skills and building connections. Students attend workshops on resume creation, interviewing, and other key job readiness skills; meet with program alumni to practice networking; and are connected to and supported in applying for paid internships and full-time jobs. All opportunities are designed to help students prepare for and transition into financially sustaining career pathways.

COLLEGE INNOVATION

College success advising specialists offer individualized academic, socio-emotional, financial, and career support. To complement this, paid internships are offered to College Possible students active in campus clubs or organizations to join the University Leaders Program. These mid- or upper-level classmen hold at least four events each year for their College Possible campus community. Through their work, university leaders strengthen their leadership, event planning, collaboration, and mentorship skills and bolster their resumes while facilitating a sense of belonging for their College Possible peers.



¹ Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2024, College Board



1,033
High School Students



3,632
College Students

38

AmeriCorps members served as high school and college coaches

124

active partner high schools and colleges/universities across Minnesota

91%

of high school seniors applied to at least one college

95%

of high school seniors earned admission to at least one college

75%

of high school students who graduated on time enrolled in college within one year

95%

of first-year students persisted from fall 2023 to fall 2024

5,000+

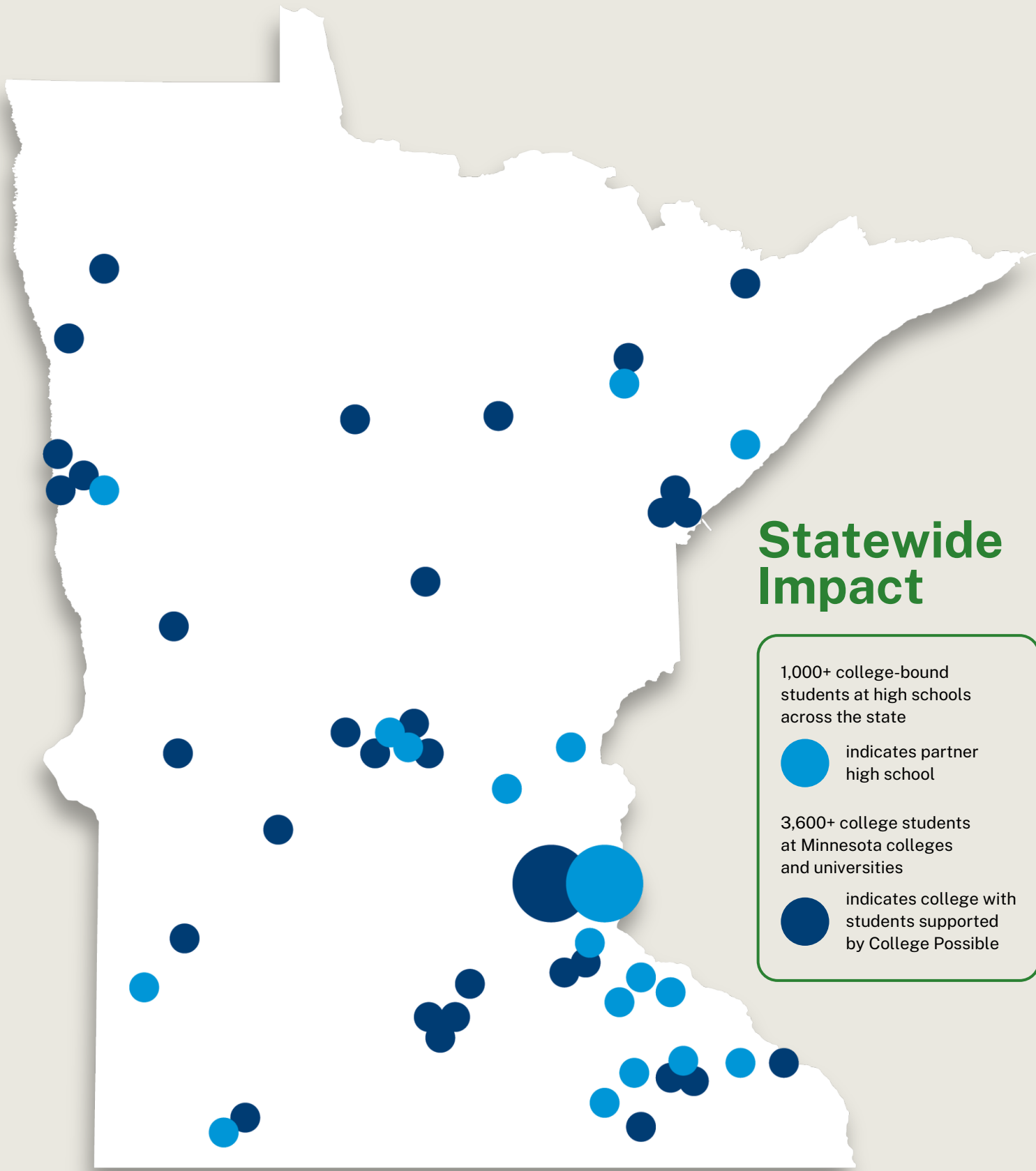
degrees earned by students since College Possible's founding in 2000



College Possible offered me personalized coaching and advice that made a huge difference, especially when it came to applying for scholarships, preparing for the ACT and figuring out how to pay for college. I love that College Possible is focused on helping students from backgrounds like mine — those who might not have all the answers but are determined to succeed. It felt like a great opportunity to get the help I needed and join a supportive community of students who are all working toward the same goals.

Shuayi

University Leader at St. Catherine University, Class of 2025



Statewide Impact

1,000+ college-bound students at high schools across the state

indicates partner high school

3,600+ college students at Minnesota colleges and universities

indicates college with students supported by College Possible

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ATTENDED BY COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENTS IN 2023–2024

Flagship Schools

Bloomington Kennedy High School
Central Senior High School
Champlin Park High School
Columbia Heights High School
Como Park Senior High School
Edina High School
Harding Senior High School
Highland Park Senior High School
Humboldt High School
Johnson Senior High School
North Community High School
Park Center Senior High School
Patrick Henry High School
Roosevelt High School
Roseville Area High School
St. Louis Park High School

Navigate Schools

279 Online
Apollo High School
Armstrong High School
Augsburg Fairview Academy
Battle Lake High School
Blaine High School
Blooming Prairie High School
Bloomington Jefferson High School
Burnsville High School
Cambridge-Isanti High School
Cannon Falls High School
Century High School
City Academy
Community of Peace Academy
Coon Rapids High School
Cooper High School
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School
Early College Academy
East Ridge High School
Eastview High School
Eden Prairie High School
Edison High School
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High
FAIR School for Arts
Faribault High School
Farmington High School
Frazee High School

Fridley High School
Gordon Parks High School
Great River School
Hawley High School
Heritage Academy of Science and Technology
Hopkins High School
Lakeville North High School
Lakeville Pathways Academy
Lakeville South High School
LeRoy-Ostrander High School
LEAP High School
Metro Schools College Prep
Moorhead High School
Mountain Iron-Buhl High School
North St. Paul High School
Nova Classical Academy Upper School
Orono High School
PACT Charter School
Perham High School
Red Wing High School
Richfield High School
RTR High School
Sartell High School
Southwest High School
Spring Lake Park High School
St. Charles High School
Triton High School
Ubah Medical Academy
Venture Academy
Washington Technology Magnet School
Wayzata High School
Worthington High School

Colleges (Located in Minnesota)

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Augsburg University
Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute Minneapolis
Bemidji State University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Capella University
Carleton College
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
Century College
College of Saint Benedict
Concordia College at Moorhead

Concordia University-Saint Paul
Culinary Institute of America
Dakota County Technical College
Dunwoody College of Technology
Empire Beauty School-Bloomington
Empire Beauty School-Dunwoody
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Hennepin Technical College
Herzing University-Minneapolis
Inver Hills Community College
Macalester College
Metropolitan State University
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Minneapolis Community Technical College Power of You
Minnesota North College
Minnesota State Community and Technical College
Minnesota State University-Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Normandale Community College
North Central University
North Hennepin Community College
Northwest Technical College
Rasmussen University-Minnesota
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community and Technical College
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Saint Paul College
South Central College
Southwest Minnesota State University
St. Cloud State University
St. Paul College Power of You
St. Catherine University
St. Cloud Technical and Community College
St. Olaf College
The College of Saint Scholastica
University of Minnesota-Crookston
University of Minnesota-Duluth
University of Minnesota-Rochester
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Northwestern-St. Paul
University of St. Thomas
Winona State University