



# Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants Annual Report

February 15, 2025

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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 \$570.83 to prepare, including staff time.

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# Introduction

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The 2021 Legislature enacted the Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants, Minnesota Statutes 136A.1274. The Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants (USTG) program is designed to provide postsecondary assistance to students who belong to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce. Eligible students must be enrolled in a Minnesota teacher preparation program and may receive an award during one term in which the student is completing a required 12 week or more student teaching experience.

OHE is required to submit an annual report by February 15 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 number of eligible applicants and the number of student teachers receiving an award, each broken down by postsecondary institution, (2) the total number of awards, the total dollar amount of all awards, and the average amount, and (3) other summary data identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators.

This report will provide summary data for fiscal year 2024.

# Financial Summary

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Table 1 summarizes the Underrepresented Student Teacher Grant (USTG) appropriation amounts. If there is a projected surplus in this program or the Student Teacher in Shortage Areas (STSA) 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 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. Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants Appropriation Summary**

FY	Appropriation	Administrative	Funds Transferred	Amount Available for Awards
2024	\$1,9250,000	\$57,750.00	(\$730,000)	\$1,137,250.00
2025	\$1,9250,000	\$57,750.00		\$1,867,250.00

# Application and Awards

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## Fiscal Year 2024 (2023-2024 Award Year)

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

In FY2024, 220 applications were received from 24 postsecondary institutions. Out of the 220 applications, 131 students were identified as eligible and all eligible students received awards.

The amount of available funds for the fiscal year is separately allocated by term. OHE paid \$432,730 in Fall 2023 term awards and \$417,448 in Spring 2024 term awards. A net total of \$850,178 was disbursed to 131 eligible students. The average award amount was \$6,489.91.

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

**Table 2. Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants Application and Awards Summary Fiscal Year 2024**

Institution Name	Total # of Complete Applications	Total # Awards
Augsburg University	22	15
Bemidji State University	*	*
Bethany Lutheran College	*	*
Bethel University	10	*
College of St. Benedict	*	*
College of St. Scholastica	*	*
Concordia College, Moorhead	*	*
Concordia University, St. Paul	*	*
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	*	*
Hamline University	*	*
Metropolitan State University	20	14
Minnesota State University, Mankato	22	*
North Central University	*	*
Southwest Minnesota State University	*	*
St. Catherine University	*	*
St. Cloud State University	*	*
St. John's University	*	*
St. Mary's University of Minnesota	*	*
University of Minnesota, Duluth	*	*
University of Minnesota, Morris	*	*
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	32	24
University of Northwestern, St. Paul	*	*
University of St. Thomas	38	26
Winona State University	15	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>131</b>

\*Data suppressed due to # of applications < 10

# Appendix A:

## Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants Statute

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### 2022 Minnesota Statutes

#### 136A.1274 UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT TEACHER GRANTS.

##### Subd. 1. Establishment.

The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education must establish a grant program for student teaching stipends for low-income students who belong to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

##### Subd. 2. Eligibility.

To be eligible for a grant under this section, a student teacher must:

- (1) be enrolled in a Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board-approved teacher preparation program that requires at least 12 weeks of student teaching in order to be recommended for any Tier 3 teaching license;
- (2) demonstrate financial need based on criteria established by the commissioner under subdivision 3;
- (3) be meeting satisfactory academic progress as defined under section [136A.101](#)<sup>1</sup>, subdivision 10; and
- (4) belong to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce.

##### Subd. 3. Administration.

(a) The commissioner must establish an application process and other guidelines for implementing this program. The commissioner must notify grant recipients of their award amounts by the following dates:

- (1) for fall student teaching placements, recipients must be notified by August 15;
- (2) for spring student teaching placements, recipients must be notified by December 1; and
- (3) for summer student teaching placements, recipients must be notified by May 1.

These notification deadlines do not apply in cases where grants are awarded to student teachers who applied after application deadlines and funds remained after the initial round of grants were awarded.

(b) The commissioner must determine each academic year the stipend amount up to \$7,500 based on the amount of available funding, the number of eligible applicants, and the financial need of the applicants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101>

- (c) The commissioner must give equal consideration to all eligible applicants regardless of the order the application was received before the application deadline.
- (d) If there are insufficient funds to provide an award to all eligible applicants, the commissioner shall prioritize the awards to eligible applicants based on:
  - (1) the financial need of an applicant; and
  - (2) the statewide distribution of funds.

**Subd. 4. Reporting.**

By February 15 of each year, the commissioner must submit a report on the details of the program under this section to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over E-12 and higher education finance and policy. The report must include the following information:

- (1) the number of eligible applicants and the number of teacher candidates receiving an award, each broken down by postsecondary institution;
- (2) the total number of awards, the total dollar amount of all awards, and the average award amount; and
- (3) other summary data identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators.

History: [1Sp2021 c 2 art 2 s 12](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=2&year=2021&type=1) (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=2&year=2021&type=1)

## Appendix B:

# Minnesota Office of Higher Education Data Suppression Policy for Student Information

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### 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 ( $\geq 95$  percent), and
- Recode categories with values of 0 to 5 percent to less than or equal to 5 percent ( $\leq 5$  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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