



Gender-Neutral Single-User Restroom Grant

Report to the Legislature

As required by Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 55, article 8, section 19, subdivision 5

For more information:

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As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197: This report costs approximately \$1,292.61 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

Table of Contents

For more information:.....	2
Legislative Charge.....	4
Analysis.....	4
Applications Received.....	4
District and Cooperative School Grant Recipients	5
Charter School Grant Recipients	5
Model for Support.....	6
Conclusion	7

Legislative Charge

Laws of Minnesota 2023, 1st Spec. Sess., article 8, section 19, subdivision 5, designated \$1,000,000 annually for grants to school districts for remodeling, constructing, or repurposing space for gender-neutral single-user restrooms. The statute reads:

“(b) A school district or a cooperative unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.24, subdivision 2, may apply for a grant of not more than \$75,000 per site under this subdivision in the form and manner specified by the commissioner. The commissioner must award at least one grant under this subdivision to Independent School District No. 709, Duluth, for a demonstration grant for a project awaiting construction.

(c) The commissioner must ensure that grants are awarded to schools to reflect the geographic diversity of the state.

(d) Up to \$75,000 each year is available for grant administration and monitoring.

(e) By February 1 of each year, the commissioner must annually report to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over education on the number of grants that were awarded each year and the number of grant applications that were unfunded during that year.”

Analysis

Applications Received

This was a competitive, capital grant. Within the first Request for Proposal (RFP) Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) received eight total applications from different local educational agencies (LEAs) requesting a total of \$633,521.72. Within the second RFP, MDE received seven total applications from LEAs requesting a total of \$555,494.83. Applicants could apply for projects that would serve more than one site. MDE received applications from nine public school districts or co-ops to develop single-user, gender-neutral restrooms at ten different school sites. Additionally, MDE received applications from six different charter schools for eight different school sites.

Accounting for the requirement to award grants to a geographically representative set of schools, MDE required all applicants to identify their congressional district. The table below identifies how many LEAs applied for the grant in each congressional district.

Table 1. Number of applications received

Congressional District	Number of District / Coop applicants	# of Charter Applicants
CD 1	2	0
CD 2	0	0
CD 3	0	1

Congressional District	Number of District / Coop applicants	# of Charter Applicants
CD 4	0	2
CD 5	0	2
CD 6	2	0
CD 7	1	0
CD 8	3	1

District and Cooperative School Grant Recipients

Recipients were selected based on a competitive process in which applications scored the highest were prioritized. This resulted in awards to the 4 local educational agencies who applied for the grant during the first RFP. Since there were funds left over, MDE opened a second RFP and is currently in the process of reviewing applications. MDE is committed to funding high-quality projects.

The table below identifies the districts awarded grants, and key information about their project.

Table 2. District and cooperative school recipients

District Name	Congressional District	Number of Sites funded	Budget
Chrisholm Public Schools	8	1	\$75,000.00
Eastern Carver County Schools	6	2	\$150,000.00
Holdingford Public School District	7	2	\$75,000.00
LaCrescent-Hokah Public Schools	1	1	\$75,000.00

Charter School Grant Recipients

Recipients were selected based on a competitive process in which applications scored the highest were prioritized. This resulted in awards to all 4 local educational agencies who applied for the grant during the first RFP. Since there were funds left over, MDE opened a second RFP and is currently in the process of reviewing applications. MDE is committed to funding high-quality projects.

The table below identifies the charters awarded grants, and key information about their project.

Table 3. Charter school recipients

District Name	Congressional District	Number of Sites funded	Total budget
Duluth Public Schools Academy	8	1	\$75,000.00
Great River Schools	4	1	\$75,000.00
Prodeo Academy	5	1	\$75,000.00
St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts	4	1	\$75,000.00

The table below details the original RFP and captures the new timeline for the two different competitions.

Timeline	Original RFP Schedule	Second RFP Schedule
RFP Published	8/6/2025	12/1/2025
Question and Answer Period Close	8/27/2025	12/23/2025
Questions and Answers Published	8/29/2025	1/5/2026
RFP Closes	9/17/2025	1/16/2026
Minimum Qualifications check	9/18/2025	1/20/2026
Review Training (Start of Review Period)	9/24/2025	1/22/2026
Review Period Ends	10/8/2025	2/6/2026
Discussion Period	10/13/2025 – 10/20/2025	2/9/2026 – 2/13/2026
Discussion Period	10/21/2025 – 10/28/2025	2/16/2026 – 2/23/2026
Award Letters Send	10/30/2025	2/25/2026
Beginning of Grant	11/27/2025	3/25/2026

Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 13.599, subdivision 3 states at the time of opening, the name, address, and amount requested is public information. All other data is private or non-public until completion of the evaluation process. Given this provision, MDE will report back to the legislature by the end of June 2026 with an update that fulfills the intended reporting request.

Model for Support

Providing access to gender-neutral, and single-user facilities aligns to The Minnesota Department of Education’s [Due North Education Plan](#) priority that “every student learns in a safe and nurturing environment.” Single-user, gender-neutral facilities acknowledge that some students, for a variety of reasons, may feel uncomfortable using shared facilities.

Conclusion

MDE is currently in the process of completing the capital grants process for awarding funds to eight different local educational agencies. Since there were additional funds following the first RFP, MDE published a second RFP and is in the review process. Due to the competitive nature of this grant and a second RFP, there will be some local educational agencies who applied and will not be awarded funding.