



May 3, 2021

**Via Email to Omnibus Higher Education Policy and Finance Conference Committee**

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Dear Conferees,

On behalf of the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD), Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) and Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA), we write to express our support for the below provisions in the Higher Education Policy and Finance Omnibus bill.

**Student-Parent Information**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 10 (Senate and House): FY22 = \$122,000; FY23 = \$122,000

**Get Ready!**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 11 (Senate and House): FY22 = \$180,000; FY23 = \$180,000

**Minnesota Education Equity Partnership**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 12 (Senate and House): FY22 = \$45,000; FY23 = \$45,000

**College Possible – College success should be determined by individual effort, not by income or background.**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 18 (Senate): FY22 = \$600,000; FY23 = \$600,000  
Support programs of college admission for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support at the high school level.

**Summer Academic Enrichment Program – Offers students high-quality experiences that boosts academic performance through participation in enrichment classes in core curricular areas.**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 20 (House): FY22 = \$750,000; FY23 = \$750,000

**Concurrent Enrollment – A cost-effective opportunity for high school students to earn college credit and learn about post-secondary academic expectations.**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 23 (Senate): FY22 = \$340,000; FY23 = \$340,000  
Dedicated amounts to the creation of new courses and the expansion of existing programs
- Article 2, Section 34 (House): FY22 = \$340,000; FY23 = \$340,000  
Establishes a new statutory program administered by OHE that would award matching grants to postsecondary institutions on a competitive basis to expand concurrent enrollment offerings; allows funds to be used for training and professional development.

**Grants to Teacher Candidates in Shortage Areas**

- Article 2, Section 13 (House): FY22 = \$500,000; FY23 = \$500,000  
Grant program for student teaching stipends for low-income students who intend to teach in a shortage area after graduating and receiving their teaching license.

**Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness**

- Article 1, Section 2 (Senate and House): FY22 = \$200,000; FY23 = \$200,000

**Agricultural Educators Loan Forgiveness**

- Article 1, Section 2 (Senate and House): FY22 = \$50,000; FY23 = \$50,000

**Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarships - Increasing the percentage of TOCAIT in MN is needed to close our nation-leading opportunity and achievement gaps.**

- Article 2, Section 11 (House): FY22 = \$2,000,000; FY23 = \$2,500,000  
Scholarship program to support undergraduate and graduate students who are preparing to become teachers, have demonstrated financial need, and belong to racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce. First scholarships awarded by November 1, 2021.

**Student Teacher Grants / Underrepresented Teacher Candidate Grants**

- Article 1, Section 2 (Senate): FY22 = \$750,000; FY23 = \$750,000  
To support candidates belonging to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group and meeting other eligibility requirements. If this dedicated amount is not fully spent because of a lack of qualifying candidates, any remaining amount may be awarded to qualifying teacher candidates in a shortage area.
- Article 2, Section 12 (House): FY22 = \$2,293,000; FY23 = \$2,628,000  
Grant program for student teaching stipends for low-income students who belong to a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce.

**Direct Admissions – The current admissions system can be confusing, especially for families with first-generation college students. The Direct Admissions program will provide a streamlined process.**

- Article 2, Section 43 (Senate): FY22 = \$500,000; FY23 = \$75,000 (one time appropriation)  
Direct Admissions Pilot Program - the OHE Commissioner Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Minnesota School Board Association to automatically offer conditional admission into Minnesota public colleges and universities to Minnesota public high school seniors based on a student's high school grade point average, high school and college transcript information, standardized tests, statewide assessments, and other measures as determined by stakeholders.
- Article 2, Section 39 (House): FY22 = \$925,000; FY23 = \$75,000 (ongoing appropriation)  
Direct Admissions Pilot Program - the OHE Commissioner, Colleges and Universities, the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Minnesota School Board Association to automatically offer conditional admission to Minnesota public high school seniors based on a student's high school grade point average, high school and college transcript information, standardized tests, statewide assessments, and other measures as determined by stakeholders.

**Career and Technical Educator Pilot Project – Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses provide high school students with opportunities to explore career interests while learning technical skills and a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.**

- Article 2, Section 41 (House): Winona State University must develop a teacher preparation program that leads to initial licensure in at least one license area. Winona State University must partner with Minnesota State College Southeast to provide the subject matter training necessary for license areas chosen. FY22 = \$400,000

We commend your collaborative efforts and thank you for your hard work and leadership. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation for the number of provisions addressing teacher shortage and increasing the number of teachers of color in Minnesota's K-12 schools. Please contact us if we can provide clarification or additional information.

Sincerely,

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