

Executive Summary

This report finds that the majority of Minnesota public schools do not follow PSEO state law. State statute [124D.09, Subd. 7](#) requires district and charter schools to annually provide “up-to-date information” to students and families about the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program on their website. This is the first report to examine and report on every relevant Minnesota district and charter high school website. (Appendix 2 provides individual district/school results). Our research demonstrates a **PSEO Information Gap** across the state of Minnesota by measuring 390 school district and charter school websites.

PSEO can be a strong part of Minnesota’s efforts to close high school and post-secondary graduation gaps. PSEO also is valuable for high school students and families. It saves them \$60 million annually ([Misukanis 2020](#)). Minnesota students need up-to-date information to make informed decisions about PSEO participation. Since 2015, MDE annually has reminded high school leaders to follow the law by sharing up to date information with students and families on their website and in other materials. **We find that these efforts have been insufficient.**

Our analysis of 390 district and charter websites found that:

1. **Only 40.3% of websites are up to date and fully comply with state law.**
2. Thirty-five websites (9.0%) provide factually inaccurate information about PSEO.
3. There is a difference in compliance rates between district and chartered public schools. While 72.5% of charter public schools are up to date, only 33.3% of districts are up to date.
4. Of the 363 websites that provide some PSEO information, 158 are missing recent amendments to PSEO law made in 2019 (**43.5%**) and 85 websites don’t inform readers that a transportation fund exists for low-income families (**23.4%**).
5. Twenty-seven (6.9%) websites don’t provide any information about PSEO.

It is time to end the state’s tolerance of institutions that do not follow state law.

Based on this report’s findings, People for PSEO recommends:

1. **The Minnesota Department of Education** should review and apply appropriate enforcement mechanisms (such as that found under [MN Statute 127A.42](#)) to district and charter public schools that do not satisfy their statutory obligations.
2. **The Minnesota Department of Education** should conduct a public awareness campaign with People for PSEO and other groups to close the PSEO Information Gap and increase school compliance with PSEO law during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.
3. **The Minnesota State Legislature** should (1) require PSEO information to be “searchable” on district websites and (2) support amendments to PSEO law that promote public awareness, such as removing the college gag rule ([124D.09, Subd. 9\(a\)](#)) that restricts post-secondary institutions from informing students about the financial benefits



PSEO Information Gap Report Results:

Is the High School Website Up to Date?

Yes	157 websites	40.26%
No	233 websites	59.74%
Total	390 websites	100.0%

Key Findings

Correct and up to date	153 websites	39.23%
Correct and up to date; Contains inaccurate information	4 websites	1.03%
Missing information	175 websites	44.87%
Missing information; Contains inaccurate information	31 websites	7.95%
PSEO Page cannot be found	25 websites	6.41%
PSEO Page link is broken	2 websites	0.51%
Total	390 websites	100.0%

Of the 360 websites that contain some information about PSEO, what percent contain important PSEO information?

Language from MDE PSEO Guidance Language	Yes	No	% Yes
By March 1 of each year, or three weeks prior to the date a student registers for courses for the following school year (whichever is earlier), schools must provide PSEO information to all students in grades 8-11 and their families.	205	158	55.8%
School districts must allow a PSEO student reasonable access to the high school building, computers and/or other technology resources during regular school hours to participate in PSEO courses, whether on-line or on campus.	168	195	46.28%
Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for qualifying students to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses.	278	85	76.58%