

**Subject** Higher Education: Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Act

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## Overview

This bill establishes an “Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center” within the Office of Higher Education (OHE). The center’s primary mission would be to increase access to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities. The bill also creates a grant program to assist higher education institutions with creating or expanding postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Defines terms for this section and for section 2 of the bill.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Establishment.</b> Requires OHE, in conjunction with the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota, to establish an Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center to increase higher education access for students with intellectual disabilities. Lays out requirements for the center.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Director; advisory committee.</b> Requires the naming of a director and the appointment of an advisory committee.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Responsibilities.</b> Sets forth the duties of the center, which include: (a) monitoring higher education institutions; (b) monitoring relevant changes in federal and state law; (c) providing technical assistance to higher education institutions; and (d) distributing information to students with intellectual disabilities and their parents.</p> |
| 2 | <p><b>Inclusive higher education grants.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Establishment.</b> Requires OHE, in collaboration with the center established in section 1, to create a competitive grant program for Minnesota</p>  |

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	postsecondary institutions to create new or expand existing programs for students with intellectual disabilities.
	<b>Subd. 2. Eligible grantees.</b> Allows public two-year and four-year institutions to receive grants under this section.
	<b>Subd. 3. Application.</b> Provides that grant applicants must develop a written plan meeting the enumerated requirements.
	<b>Subd. 4. Grant account.</b> Creates an account in the special revenue fund for depositing money appropriated for the grant program.
	<b>Subd. 5. Grant awards.</b> Sets maximum grant awards amounts, puts additional requirements on grant recipients, and requires a 25 percent match of the grant funds.
	<b>Subd. 6. Grantee reporting.</b> Requires grant recipients to report to the center on the funded initiatives.
	<b>Subd. 7. Reporting.</b> Requires the center to submit an annual legislative report on the grant program.
3	<b>Short title.</b> Allows this act to be cited as the “Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Act.”
4	<b>Appropriations.</b> <b>Subd. 1. Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center.</b> Appropriates \$250,000 in fiscal year 2023 for the center in section 1 of the bill. Sets an annual base budget of \$250,000 for the center. <b>Subd. 2. Inclusive higher education grants.</b> Appropriates \$750,000 in fiscal year 2023 for the grant program in section 2 of the bill. Sets an annual base budget of \$750,000 for the grant program.



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