



## Agency Overview

March 3, 2026 | House Education Finance Committee

# Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

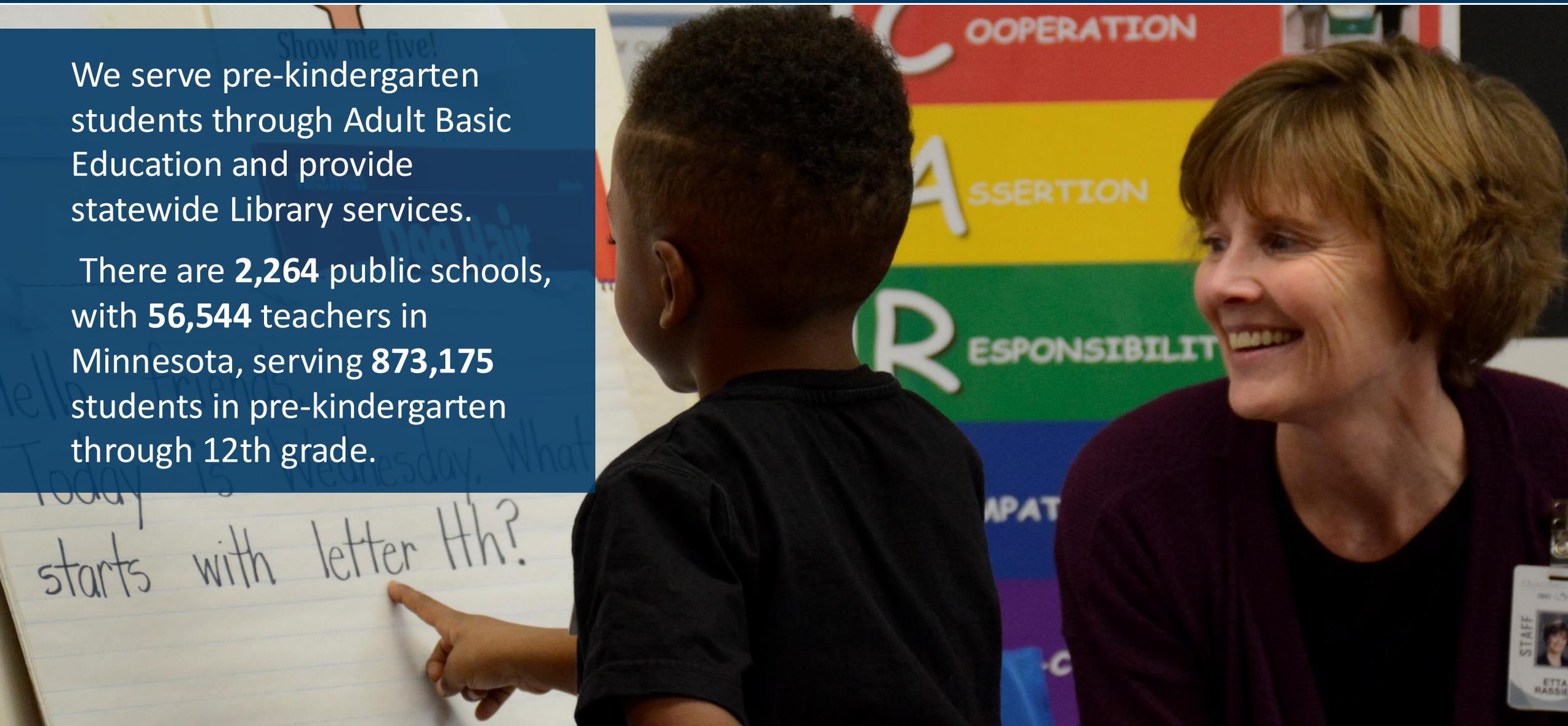
1. **Prioritize equity.**
2. **Start from within.**
3. **Measure what matters.**
4. **Go local.**
5. **Follow the money.**
6. **Start early.**
7. **Monitor implementation of standards.**
8. **Value people.**
9. **Improve conditions for learning.**
10. **Give students options.**



# Who Do We Serve?

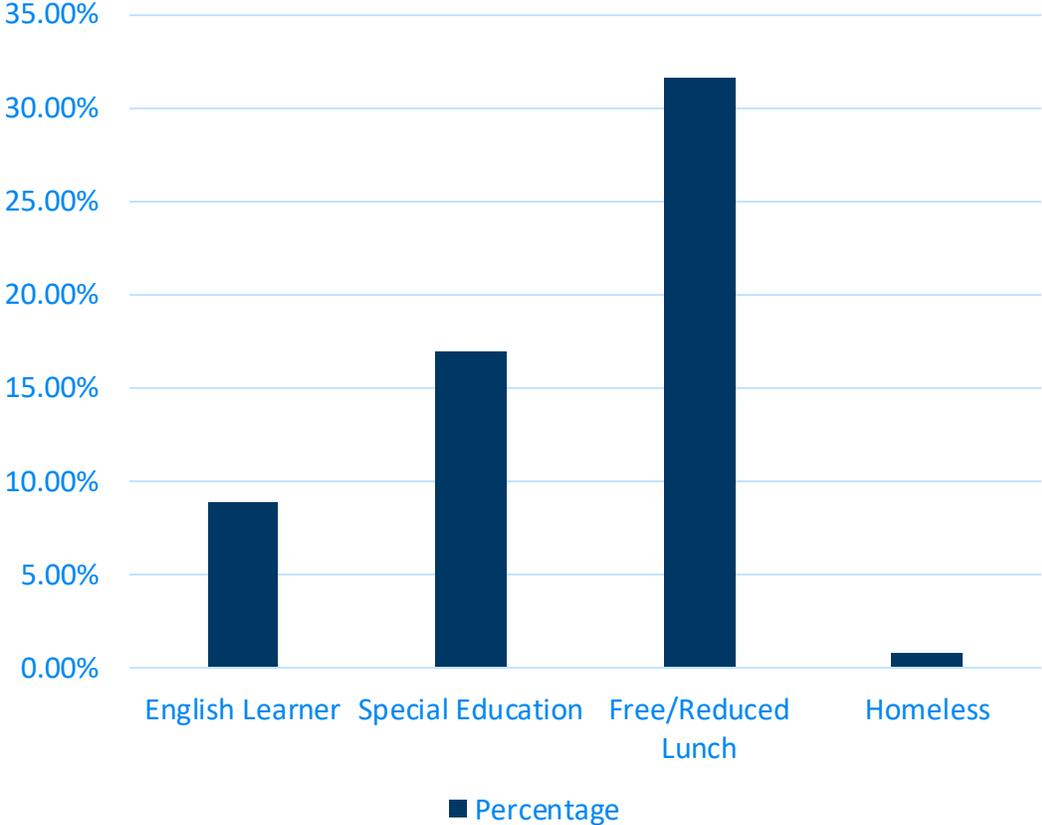
We serve pre-kindergarten students through Adult Basic Education and provide statewide Library services.

There are **2,264** public schools, with **56,544** teachers in Minnesota, serving **873,175** students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

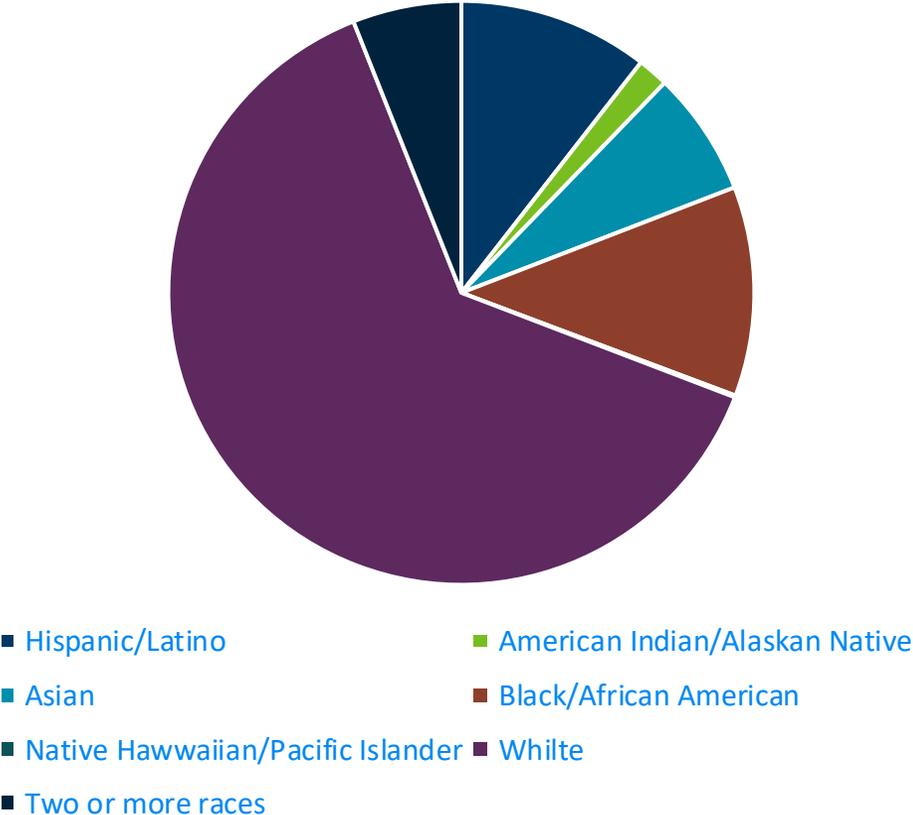


# Students We Serve

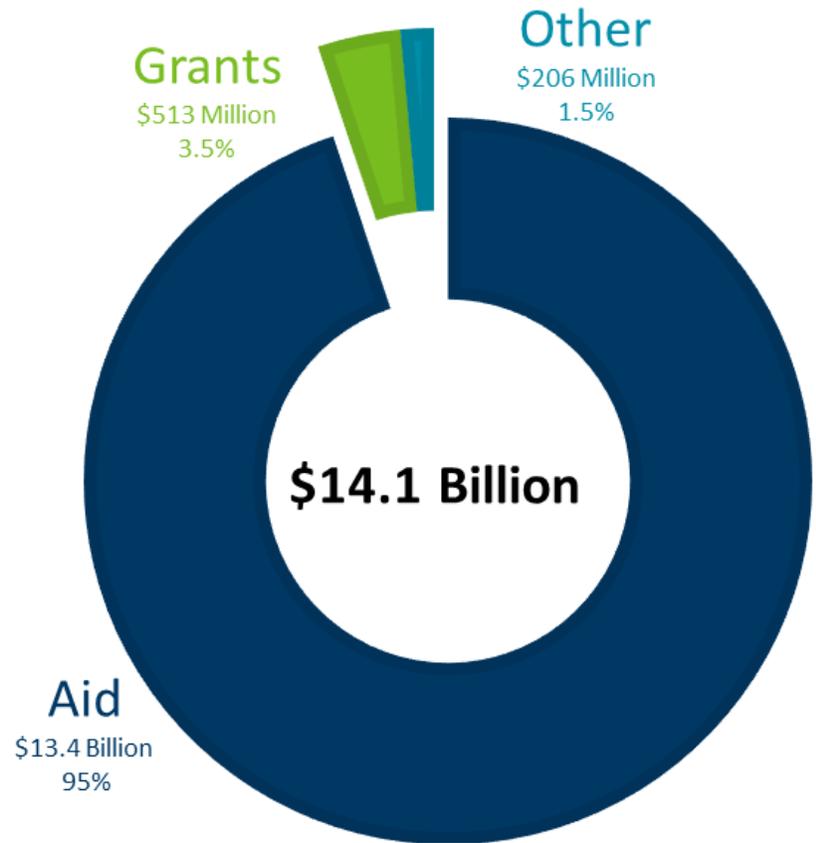
### Student Enrollment



### Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



# FY26 Funding Distribution



## Aid



## Grants



## Other





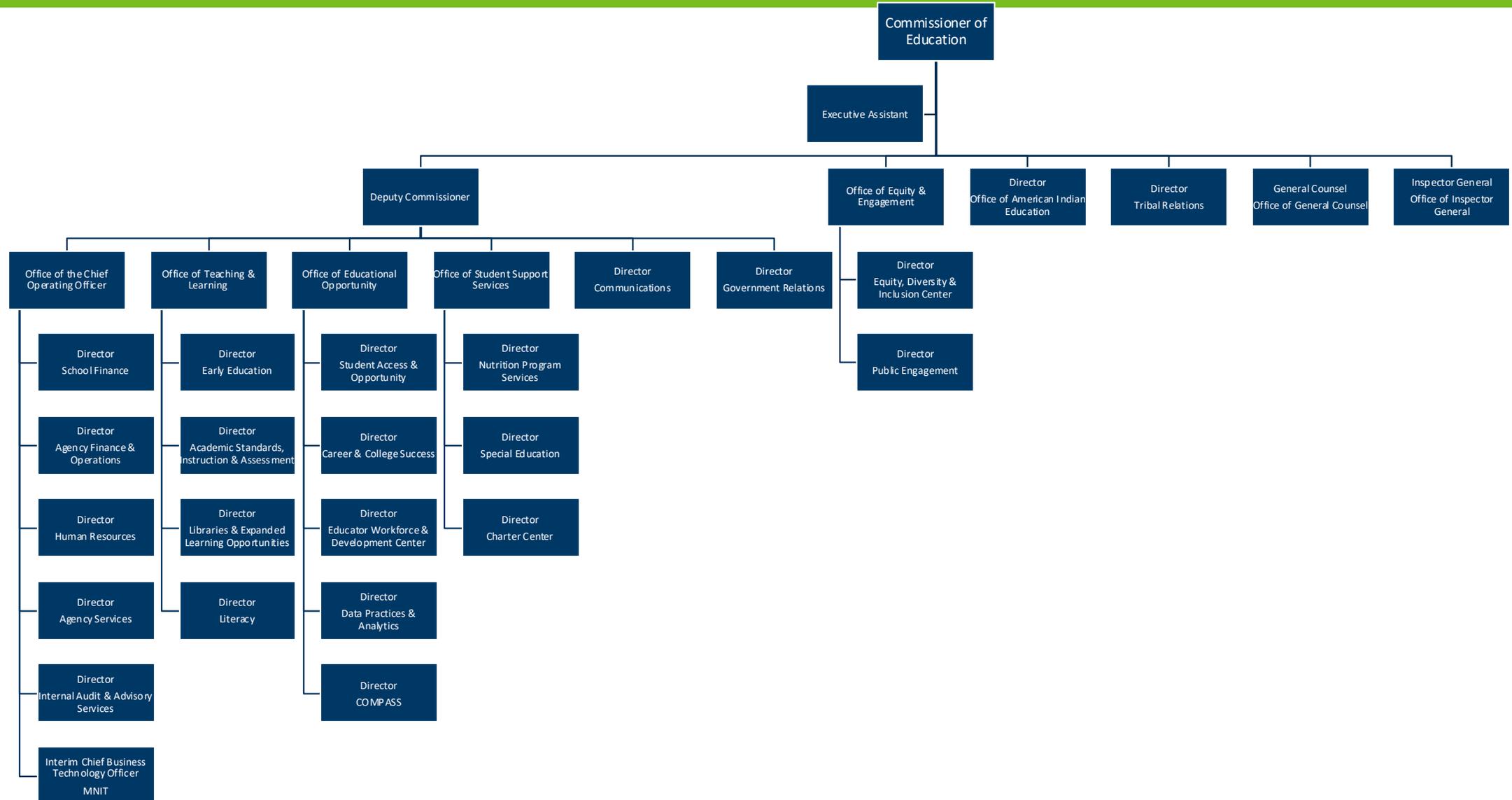
# Who Are We and What Do We Do?

# MDE's Support & Services

- Provide support and leadership for, and partnership with, local education agencies and organizations.
- Support our public and school libraries and expanded learning programs.
- Develop and provide tools and resources for students, educators, and families.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to teachers and school leaders.
- Provide support and assistance to families.
- Distribute state and federal school aid and grants.
- Collect and analyze data.
- Oversee state and federal accountability.
- Provide state and federal compliance and regulatory responsibility.
- Implement laws, programs, and guidance to educators.



# Minnesota Department of Education



- Office of American Indian Education
- Office of General Counsel
- Office of Inspector General
- Office of Equity and Engagement
- Office of Student Support Services
- Office of Teaching and Learning
- Office of Educational Opportunity
- Office of Chief Operating Officer

# Office of American Indian Education

- The Office of American Indian Education has six staff who serve the 31,105 American Indian students in the state, as well as their families, teachers, administrators, and superintendents.
- The Office provides resources, guidance, and assistance to districts, charter and Tribal schools, American Indian parent Advisory Committees, American Indian Education constituents, Tribal Nations, the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC), and the Minnesota Department of Education as a whole.
- Under the Indian Education Act of 1988, the Office directly serves 273 districts in the state with more than 10 American Indian students and provides support to any district as requested.

# Office of the General Counsel

- Provides in-house legal advice to the MDE Commissioner, Cabinet, and staff
- Primary liaison with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office who represents the agency in litigation
- Data Practices
- Rulemaking
- Special Education Due Process and Dispute Resolution

# Office of Inspector General

- **The Office of Inspector General** detects and prevents fraud, waste, and abuse in MDE programs by conducting independent investigations, recommending and implementing sanctions when appropriate, and collaborating with law enforcement and prosecutors on any resulting civil or criminal actions.
- **Student Maltreatment Program** screens and investigates reports of alleged physical abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse of students in Minnesota public and charter schools. The program also assesses and investigates reports of alleged physical abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse of students that occurs in Minnesota public schools and charter schools.

- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Center (EDI)
- Public Engagement

## Mission and Work

Our mission is to advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion to create the conditions for building authentic cross-cultural communities where harm is eliminated and every person's humanity is acknowledged and valued.

Our work is to provide EDI professional learning to agency staff and leadership and to schools and community groups; lead and manage Affirmative Action responsibilities; partner with Human Resources on diversity and inclusion; provide implementation strategies of EDI principles and programs; and offer technical support and equity reviews to external partners.

## **School Climate Center**

The Center provides oversight for work in social-emotional learning, school mental health services, the statewide school nurse, discipline policy, restorative practices, bullying prevention, crisis management, and the CDC School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students Project. In addition, the Center administers several key grants, including the Non-exclusionary Discipline Grant, Gender Neutral Restrooms Grant, Stronger Connections/Bipartisan Safer Communities Grant, Law Enforcement Emergency Access Devices in Schools Grant, Recovery Grants, Student Support Personnel Pipeline Grant, and the Project AWARE Grant.

## **Achievement and Integration**

The purpose of the Achievement and Integration (A&I) for Minnesota program is to pursue racial and economic integration, increase student achievement, create equitable educational opportunities, and reduce academic disparities based on students' diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds in Minnesota public schools.

# Public Engagement Division

Office of Equity and Engagement

Public Engagement is the division responsible for facilitating direct outreach and engagement with students, families, and their broader communities to achieve the following goals:

- Improving access to important information about public education policies, programs, and services
- Facilitating community-driven communication processes and practices that emphasize community voice, inclusion, and well-being
- Supporting public engagement initiatives across the agency to build shared understanding and partnership.

Additionally, Public Engagement is responsible for the Full Service Community School Grant, Capital Funds Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects Grant, homeschooling and flexible learning opportunities, family and community engagement trainings for school/district leaders, providing direct assistance to families concerning student enrollment and re-enrollment following district withdrawal, providing strategic oversight of the Nonpublic Public Education Council, and the coordination of both the agency's Ombud services and multilingual support efforts to ensure accessible and responsive communication with all families.

# Office of Student Support Services

Assistant Commissioner Daron Korte, J.D.

- Nutrition Program Services
- Special Education Division
- Charter Center

# Nutrition Program Services

Office of Student Support Services

- School Nutrition Programs
- Minnesota Free School Meals
- Community Nutrition Programs
- Milk Programs
- Team Nutrition
- Food Distribution Program

- Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS)
- Assistive Technology
- Care and Treatment Education Programs
- Categorical Disabilities
- Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators
- Secondary Transition
- Third Party Reimbursement
- Special Education Program Monitoring

- Provides leadership, support, training, technical assistance, resources, and oversight to promote high-quality charter schools and authorizer excellence under Minnesota's charter school law
- Conducts evaluation and approval processes; provides consultation, training and technical assistance to charter schools and authorizers; and develops resources to foster a strong state chartering environment.
- Manages the federal Charter School Program grant, currently funded at \$13.4 million over five years, to increase the number of high-quality charter schools in the state
- Promotes opportunities for charter schools to implement high-quality early learning instructional programs

- Early Education
- Academic Standards, Instruction & Assessment Division
- State Library Services & Expanded Learning Opportunities
- MDE Literacy Unit

## **Programs administered by MDE Early Education Division:**

- Early Childhood Special Education
- Standards-aligned IEPs and inclusive practices
- Kindergarten transitions & PreK-3rd grade alignment
- Partnership with COMPASS for alignment and delivery professional development regionally
- Early Language and Literacy/READ Act
- Multilingual Learning
- Alignment of ECIPs and Kindergarten standards
- Design, implement, and administer the Kindergarten Fall Assessment

## **Early learning programs at DCYF and supported by partnership between MDE and DCYF:**

- Early Childhood Screening
- ECSE Part C
- School Readiness
- Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE)
- Head Start and Early Head start
- Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)
- Early Learning Scholarships
- Preschool Development Grant

# Academic Standards, Instruction & Assessment Division

Office of Teaching and Learning

**Academic Standards:** review, revise, and implement K-12 Academic Standards in arts, science, English language arts, social studies, math, physical education and health. Provide implementation training, professional guidance, and assistance to support educators in implementation.

**Instruction:** partner with COMPASS to provide regional implementation supports for standards implementation and instruction, provide guidance and tools for Gifted and Talented and Enrichment, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Computer Science, Environmental and Outdoor Learning, and Turnaround Arts. Also implement Federal Grants to improve instruction programs in gifted and talented and student support and academic enrichment. Staff runs reward or recognition programs for schools and students.

**Student Assessments:** lead a collaborative process with Minnesota educators to develop standardized Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). Send Minnesota educators to national consortium to weigh in on development of English learner assessments: the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) and Alternate ACCESS for English Language Learners

# State Library Services & Expanded Learning Opportunities Division

Office of Teaching and Learning

**State Library Programs:** oversight and management of Regional Library Basic System Support; Regional Library Telecommunications Aid; Multi-County Multi-Type Aid; Library Construction Grant Program; Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for Libraries; Electronic Library for Minnesota; and Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library.

**Federal Library Programs:** distribute and support federal grant opportunities for services like interlibrary loan and Braille and Talking Book Library; innovative library programs at school, public, and academic local libraries; and initiatives to increase equity, diversity and inclusion in libraries and library services

**Out-of-School Opportunities:** oversees distribution and implementation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Federal Grants; At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program; and state funded after-school community learning grant program

- READ Act Implementation
  - Regional Literacy Network
  - Universal Screening; Professional Development; Local Literacy Plans; Dual Immersion and Multilingual supports; Paraprofessional training; Intervention; and Curriculum review
- COMPASS partnership; MnMTSS supports based in structured literacy through COMPASS Literacy Pathway
- Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board partnership
- Dyslexia supports

- Student Access and Opportunity Division
- Career and College Success Division
- Educator Workforce and Development Center
- Data Practices and Analytics Division
- COMPASS (Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success)

# Student Access & Opportunity Division

Office of Educational Opportunity

**State Programs** includes Multilingual Learner Education (Learning English for Academic Proficiency and Success (LEAPS), World Language Education, State English Learner (EL) Program, and Community Engagement on Implementation of LEAPS Act)

**Federal Programs** includes oversight implementation assistance for formula funded programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), including Titles I-A, I-C, I-D, II-A, III-A, IV-A, V-B, and the McKinney-Vento subgrants; Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability and Reporting.

## K-12 Programs

- Career and Technical Education
- Career Pathway framework
- Work-based learning
- Dual Credit programs (PSEO; CE)
- Alternative Learning programs
- Extended Time Learning programs
- Supplemental Online learning programs
- Minnesota Career Information Systems (MCIS)

## Adult Education Programs

- Distribution of state and federal adult education funding
- Adult literacy
- Adult secondary credential options (GED; HISet)
- Adult Career Pathway programming

# Educator Workforce & Development Center

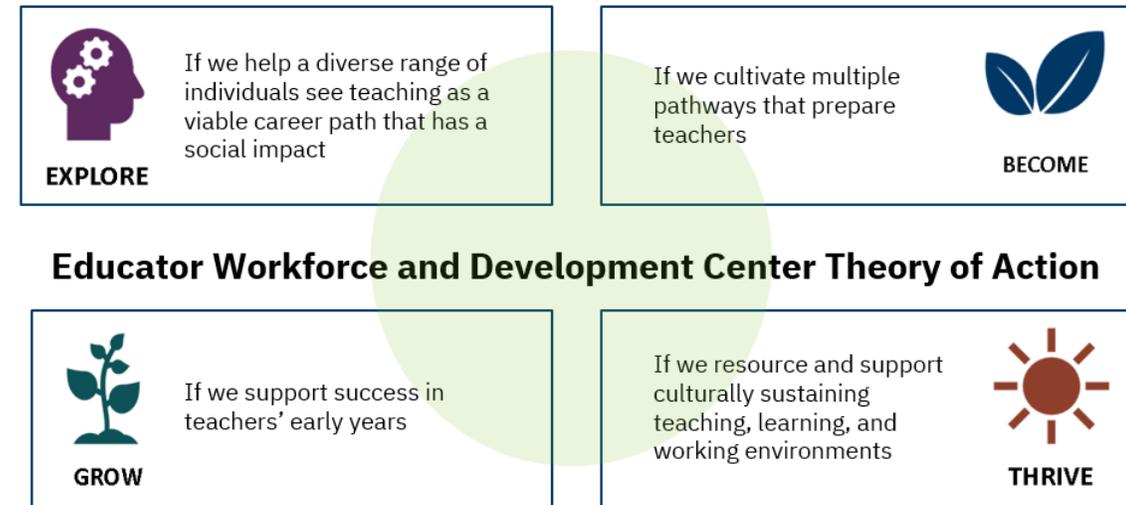
Office of Educational Opportunity

## Educator Workforce

- **Diversify** the educator workforce to ensure professional staff reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of Minnesota students.
- **Increase** the educator workforce to address shortage areas – regional, licensure areas, demographic.
- **Support, develop, and retain** current educators, particularly educators of color and Indigenous educators.
- **Create culturally responsive learning and work environments** for all students, families, and employees of education systems.
- **Marketing, outreach, and recruitment projects** aimed at attracting high quality teacher candidates into the profession.

## Student Access

- **Ensure equitable access** to experienced, in-field and effective educators for students of color, Indigenous students, and students from low-income families.



Then every student benefits from a diverse, qualified, thriving educator workforce.

# Data Practices & Analytics Division

Office of Educational Opportunity

**Data Strategy and Governance:** Strategic organizational change and oversight of the policies, standards, and ethical frameworks that ensure Minnesota's education data is secure, compliant with privacy laws, and used consistently across the agency

**Data Collection and Modernization:** Leads the transition from legacy reporting to real-time, interoperable systems to reduce the administrative burden on school districts while improving the accuracy of incoming data. Example: Ed-fi data hub, new data collections

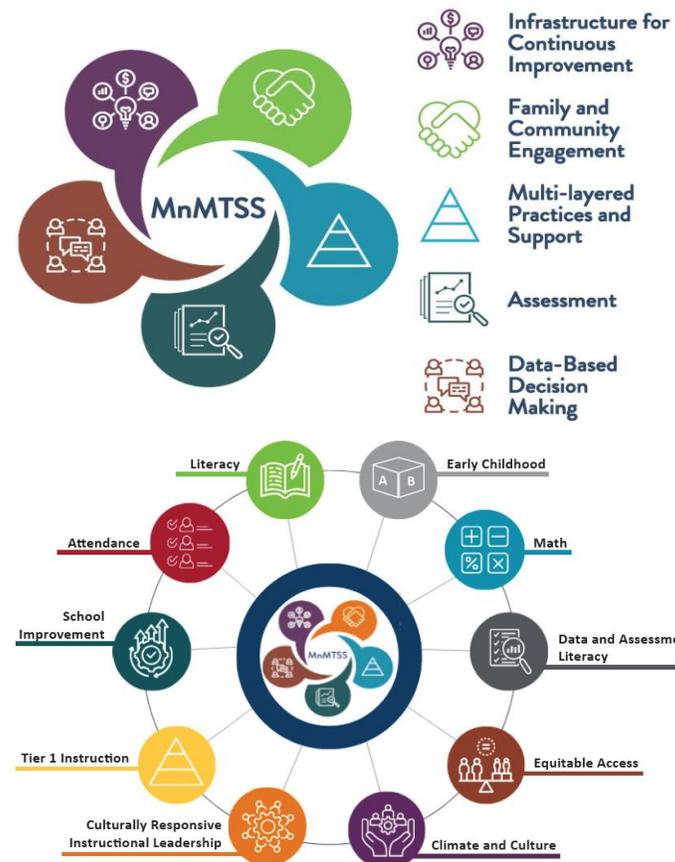
**Research, Evaluation, and Analytics:** Transforms raw educational data into actionable insights and longitudinal reports that measure student outcomes and the effectiveness of federal and state funded programs. Examples: Minnesota Student Survey, State Longitudinal Research, Policy and Program evaluation of COMPASS, READ Act, Kindergarten Fall Assessment

## Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success

**Purpose:** To ensure all Districts, Charters and Tribally Controlled Schools have regional access to a support system designed to ensure rigorous and equitable outcomes for each student without exception

### Action Plan:

- Consistent statewide professional learning and technical assistance structure for MnMTSS, ensuring consistent delivery statewide.
- Clearly defined content pathways of professional learning and technical assistance nested within the MnMTSS framework.
- A coordinated service delivery plan and process within each region to engage district, charter, and Tribally Controlled school teams in content pathways.
- Baseline data on adult and student indicators that are intended to be impacted as initial and intermediate outcomes and intended results.



### Provide:

- Opportunity for individuals within each educational system (state, region, district, school) to fully implement and sustain the MnMTSS framework.
- Coherent content pathways to support educators and leaders in implementation of culturally responsive and evidence-based practices consistently delivered across all regions.
- Opportunity for districts, charters, and Tribally Controlled schools to engage with regional teams and access COMPASS supports based on local needs and capacity.

# Office of Chief Operating Officer

Chief Operating Officer Patty Hand

- School Finance Division
- Agency Finance Division
- Human Resources Division
- Agency Services Division
- Internal Audit and Advisory Services Division
- MN.IT @ MDE Division

# School Finance Division

Office of Chief Operating Officer

- Administer the State's E-12 School Finance System
  - State General Education School Aid Payments
  - Special Education State and federal School Aid Payments
  - Support State Policymakers
  - Fiscal Analysis and Budget Forecasts
  - Property Tax Levy Limitations
- Data/Education Funding
  - Student and School Data Collection
  - Aid Entitlements and Levies
- Financial Management to Local Education Agencies
  - Audits
  - Uniform Financial Accounting and Report Standards (UFARS)
  - Technical Assistance
- School Facilities
- Pupil Transportation
- Special Education Fiscal Monitoring

# Agency Finance & Operations Division

Office of Chief Operating Officer

- Budget Coordination and Development
  - Biennial, Supplemental, Annual and Capital Budget
- Financial Accounting and Reporting
  - State and Federal
- Grant Management and Administration
- Federal Funds Management
- Accounting Operations
  - Procurement and Contracts
  - Accounts Payable and Receivable
  - Payroll

# Internal Audit & Advisory Services

Office of Chief Operating Officer

- IAAS works collaboratively with divisions to improve processes, manage risk, and promote best practices through education, advisory support, and independent assurance activities.
- IAAS is a trusted partner that empowers divisions with the knowledge, tools, and support needed to confidently manage risk, strengthen internal controls, and continuously improve.
- IAAS work includes internal controls assessments, risk management training and advisory support, internal audits, continuous improvement, and supporting best practices

- Our partnership with MNIT strengthens the MDE through collaborative problem-solving, responsive technology support, and innovative solutions that advance our shared mission to serve Minnesota learners.
- MDE & MNIT are building an IT Governance approach to ensure our teams work together for prioritization of IT efforts that support and sustain the shared strategies of the departments.
- Technical Strategy Activities (FY26)
  - Azure Modernization
  - PC Lifecycle Management
  - New technology, feasibility, & RFP
  - Annual reporting cycle mandates
  - Infrastructure Improvements

# MDE Budget

- Aid
  - Direct financial support to districts, charters, intermediates, cooperatives tribal contract schools, and libraries
- Grants
  - Competitive and named grants
- Operations, Contracts, and Other Passthroughs
  - This includes direct appropriations and riders that fund MDE responsibilities and may involve passing funds along to other partners
  - Contracts with community organizations and funding for events supporting students and educators
  - MDE salaries and benefits
  - Building rent
  - Information technology

# MDE's Operations

- In FY24 and FY25, MDE's state-funded operating expenditures averaged about \$42 million per year. Annual totals will increase about 2% this biennium due to last session's operating adjustment and other change items.
- MDE will expend a similar amount of its federal appropriations for staffing and other operations.
- MDE has budgeted about \$1.8 million specifically to administer state-funded grants appropriated in FY26. This funding will support the work of grants specialists, program experts, and our grants management software.
- MDE expects to receive \$212,500 in private grants and \$56,000 in gifts in FY26.
- MDE currently employs 484 FTES, 225 of whom are state-funded.

# Thank you!

## Questions?