

Subject Direct admissions

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Summary

The legislature codified the Direct Admissions program in 2023 to provide qualifying Minnesota high school seniors automatic conditional admission to Minnesota colleges and universities. It was previously a pilot program. The program is administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE); OHE's report on the program is available at:

https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/Documents/Direct%20Admissions/2025/OHE_Direct%20Admissions%20Report_20250131_FINAL_ADA.pdf

School districts are not currently required to participate in the program. The number of participating high schools has increased each year, starting with 46 in the first year of the program. As of January 17, 2025, 165 high schools were reporting participation data. In order to participate, a high school must:

- 1) complete mandatory data sharing and joint powers agreements;
- 2) notify families of the school's participation and give them a notice about data privacy that allows them to opt out;
- 3) review students' unweighted cumulative GPA and course grades in core areas to assign participating students to one of six admissions tiers;
- 4) notify students and their parents of their acceptance for Direct Admissions and available college options; and
- 5) collect students' responses to the notification and transmit the data to OHE.

This bill requires a district or charter high school to participate in the program starting in the 2029-2030 school year unless a school board adopts a written resolution exempting one or more high schools from participating in the program.