



Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program

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About the Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding more than \$210 million annually in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending eligible colleges, universities and career schools in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

About This Report

This is a legislative-mandated report. As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197, this report cost approximately \$1,158.91 to prepare, including staff time.

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Introduction

The 2021 Legislature enacted the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program (ATC), Minnesota Session Laws – 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sec. 45. The ATC program is designed to provide postsecondary financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students who are preparing to become teachers, have demonstrated financial need, and belong to racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the Minnesota teacher workforce.

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) is required to submit an annual report by December 15 to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over E-12 and higher education finance and policy. The report must include (1) the number of applicants and the number of award recipients, each broken down by postsecondary institution with ten or more recipients; (2) the total number of awards, the total dollar amount of all awards, and the average amount; (3) summary data on the racial or ethnicity, gender, licensure area sought, and enrollment status of all applicants and award recipients; and (4) other summary data identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators.

This report will provide preliminary data for fiscal year 2023 as of December 7, 2022. Currently, only fall 2022 term awards have been disbursed.

Financial Summary

Table 1. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program Appropriation Summary

FY	Appropriation	Administrative	Awards
2022	\$1,500,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$1,455,000.00
2023	\$1,500,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$1,455,000.00

This is a onetime appropriation. The base for this appropriation is \$0 in fiscal year 2024 and later. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, unencumbered balances under this subdivision do not cancel until July 1, 2025.

Fiscal Year 2023 (2022-2023 Award Year)

The 2022-2023 Application was released on May 16, 2022. The following table provides application and award data by institution as of December 7th, 2022.

Table 2. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Applications and Awards (Fiscal Year 2023)

Institution Name	Number of Applications	Number of Eligible Applications	Number of Awards
Augsburg University	37	35	35
Bemidji State University	*	*	*
Bethany Lutheran College	*	*	*
Bethel University	*	*	*
College of St. Benedict	*	*	*
College of St. Scholastica	*	*	*
Concordia College, St. Paul	*	*	*
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	*	*	*
Gustavus Adolphus College	*	*	*
Hamline University	*	*	*
Metropolitan State University	43	36	29
Minneapolis College	*	*	*
Minnesota State University, Mankato	*	*	*
Southwest Minnesota State University	*	*	*
St. Catherine University	*	*	*
St. Cloud State University	*	*	*
St. John's University	*	*	*
St. Olaf College	*	*	*
University of Minnesota, Crookston	*	*	*

Institution Name	Number of Applications	Number of Eligible Applications	Number of Awards
University of Minnesota, Duluth	*	*	*
University of Minnesota, Morris	*	*	*
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	42	33	33
University of Northwestern, St. Paul	*	*	*
University of St. Thomas	29	25	21
Winona State University	*	*	*
Unknown	1	0	0
Total	225	197	175

*Denotes institutions with fewer than 10 applicants.

Disbursements

As of December 7, 2022, only fall 2022 awards have been disbursed. Thus, Table 3 below provides data for fall 2022 only.

Table 3. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Fall 2022 Disbursements

Number of Students	Total amount of Disbursements	Average Disbursement per student
175	\$742,688	\$4,368.75

Racial or Ethnic Identity of Applicants and Recipients

Table 4 below provides racial or ethnicity identity data for applicants and recipients.

Table 4. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Racial or Ethnic Identity of Applicants and Recipients (Fiscal Year 2023)

Race/Ethnicity	Applicants	Recipients
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	3
Asian	45	37
Black or African American	91	72
Hispanic or Latino	59	49
Two or More Races	18	14
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	2	0
Not Reported	5	0

Gender of Applicants and Recipients

Table 5 below provides gender data for applicants and recipients.

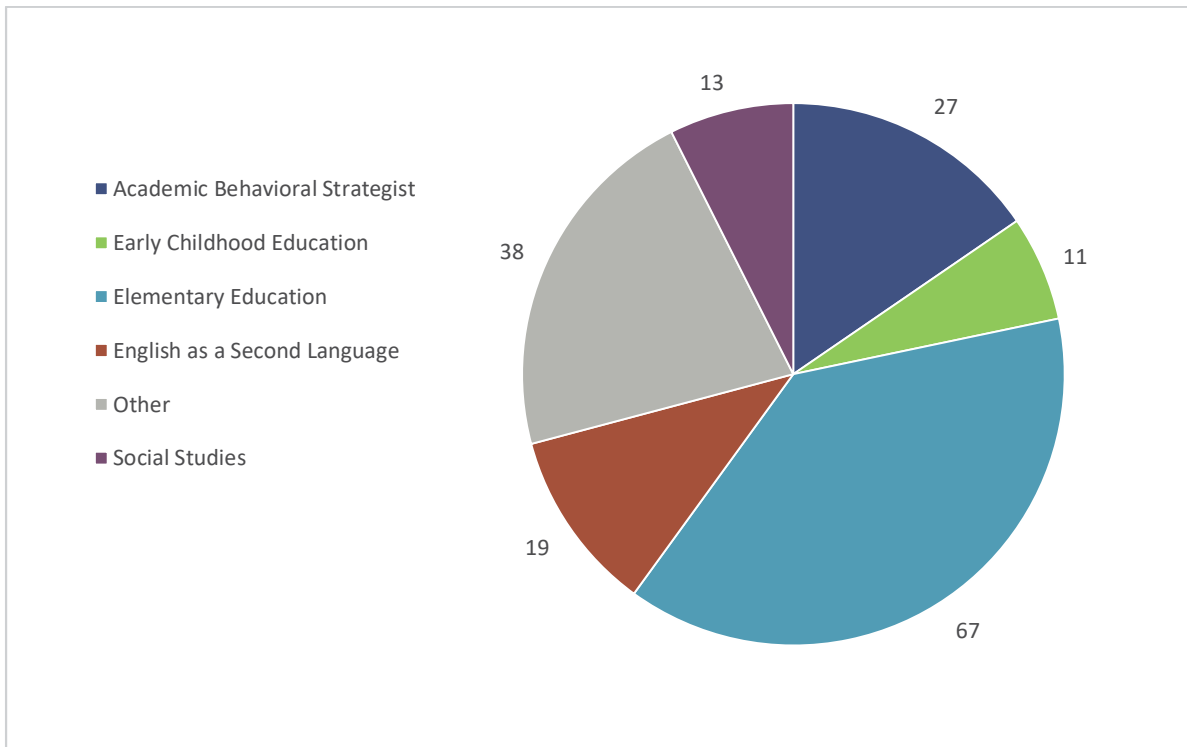
Table 5. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Gender Summary

Gender	Applicants	Recipients
Men	48	42
Women	157	133
Another Gender not listed	0	0
Unknown	20	0

Licensure Area of Recipients

The chart below lists the licensure areas as confirmed by institutions for recipients. Licensure area data for all applicants will be provided in subsequent reports.

Chart 1. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Licensure Area Summary

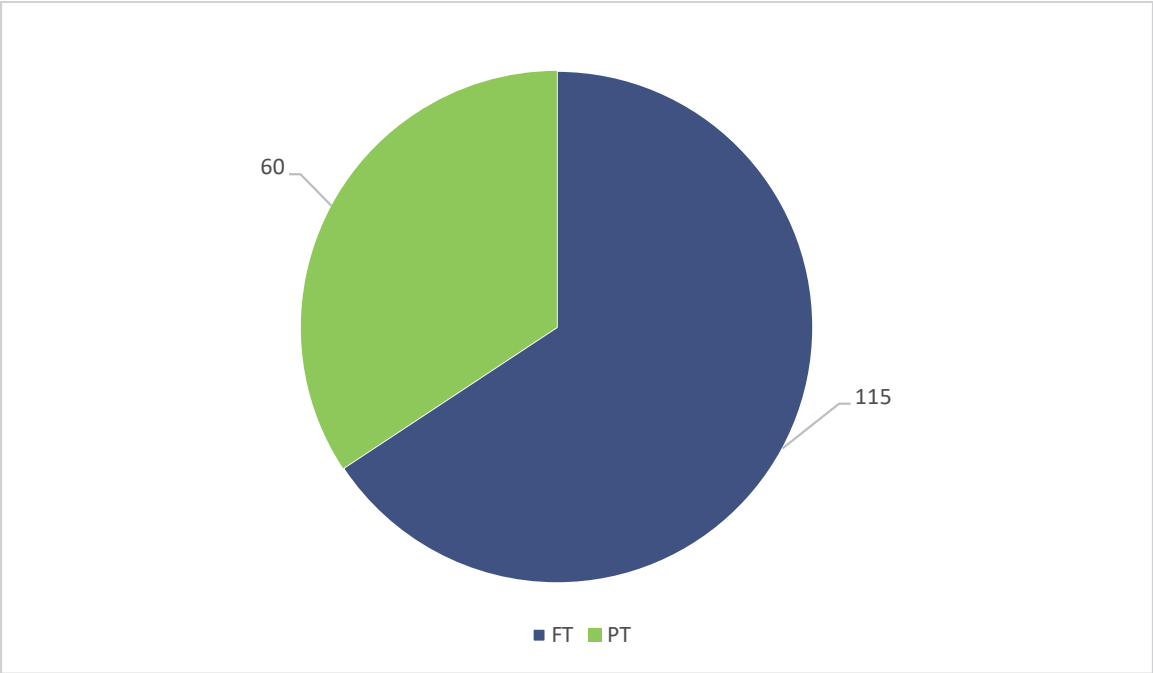


Note: The category of "Other" includes licensure fields with less than 10 recipients per field: 2 Year Program Early Childhood Education, Business 5-12, Chinese, Communication Arts/Literature (5-12), Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Early Childhood Special Education, K-12 Vocal Music, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Music (K-12), Parent and Family Education, Physical and Health Education, Physical Education, Physics, Science 5-8, Spanish, Theater Arts, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music 5-12.

Enrollment Status of Recipients

The chart below shows the enrollment status of recipients who received disbursements in Fall 2022. Undergraduate students enrolled in 15 credits or more and graduate students enrolled in six credits or more are considered enrolled full-time. All others are considered enrolled part-time. A full enrollment status summary will be provided in subsequent reports.

Chart 2. Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Fall Enrollment Status of Recipients



Appendix A:

Aspiring Minnesota Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program

Minnesota Session Laws - 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2

Sec. 45. ASPIRING MINNESOTA TEACHERS OF COLOR SCHOLARSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Scholarship pilot program established. The commissioner must establish a scholarship pilot 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.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. (a) To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, an applicant must:

- (1) be admitted and enrolled in a teacher preparation program approved by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board and be seeking initial licensure, or be enrolled in an eligible institution under section 136A.103 and be completing a two-year program specifically designed to prepare early childhood educators;
- (2) affirm to the teacher preparation program or the Office of Higher Education that the applicant is a person of color or American Indian;
- (3) be meeting satisfactory academic progress as defined under section 136A.101, subdivision 10; and
- (4) demonstrate financial need based on criteria developed by the commissioner.

(b) An eligible applicant may receive a scholarship award more than once, but may receive a total of no more than \$25,000 in scholarship awards from the program.

Subd. 3. Scholarship award amount. (a) The commissioner must establish a priority application deadline and must give equal consideration to all eligible applicants regardless of the order the application was received before the priority application deadline. If the funds available for the program are insufficient to make full awards to all eligible applicants who apply on or before the deadline, the commissioner must make awards based on the expected family contribution of an applicant, prioritizing applicants with the lowest expected family contributions. If there are multiple complete applications with identical expected family contributions, those applications may be prioritized by application completion date.

(b) The maximum award amount is \$10,000 per year for full-time study. For undergraduate students, full-time study means enrollment in a minimum of 15 or more credits per term. For graduate students, full-time study means enrollment in a minimum of six graduate credits or the equivalent.

(c) If an eligible applicant is enrolled in a program for one term during the academic year, the maximum award amount is \$5,000. If an eligible applicant is enrolled part time, the award amount must be prorated on a per-credit basis.

(d) Subject to the funds available for the program, and subject to the limitation in paragraph (e), the minimum award amount established under this section for full-time study must be no less than \$1,000 per year.

(e) An eligible applicant's individual award amount must not exceed the applicant's cost of attendance after deducting: (1) the student's expected family contribution; (2) the sum of all state or federal grants and gift aid received, including a Pell Grant and state grant; (3) the sum of all institutional grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and tuition remission amounts; and (4) the amount of any private grants or scholarships.

(f) Awards are made until available funds are expended. Eligible applicants who completed their applications on or before the priority application deadline but who did not receive an award due to insufficient funds, and eligible applicants who completed their applications after the priority application deadline, shall be placed on an award waiting list by order of application completion date.

Subd. 4. Administration. (a) The commissioner must establish an application process for individual students and institutions on behalf of all eligible students at the institution and other guidelines for implementing the scholarship program.

(b) A scholarship award must be paid to the eligible applicant's teacher preparation institution on behalf of the eligible applicant. Awards may be paid only when the institution has confirmed to the commissioner the applicant's name, racial or ethnic identity, gender, licensure area sought, and enrollment status.

Subd. 5. Service expectation. An applicant who receives a scholarship under this section is expected to serve as a full-time teacher in Minnesota after completing the program for which the scholarship was awarded.

Subd. 6. Report. By December 15 of each year, the commissioner must submit a full report on the details of the scholarship program for the previous fiscal year to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over E-12 and higher education finance and policy. The reports must also be made available on the Office of Higher Education's website. The reports must include the following information:

(1) the number of applicants and the number of award recipients, each broken down by postsecondary institution with ten or more recipients;

(2) the total number of awards, the total dollar amount of all awards, and the average award amount;

(3) summary data on the racial or ethnic identity, gender, licensure area sought, and enrollment status of all applicants and award recipients; and

(4) other summary data identified by the commissioner as outcome indicators.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2021.

Appendix B

Minnesota Office of Higher Education Data Suppression Policy for Student Information

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the protection of private data on students when releasing summary data about our institutions and students.

Increased attention to education has led to an expansion in the amount of information on students and institutions reported by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE). Such reports offer a challenge of meeting reporting requirements while also meeting legal requirements to protect each student's personally identifiable information (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA]) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). Recognizing this, subgroup disaggregation of the data may not be published if the results would yield personally identifiable information about an individual student (or if the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information). States are required to define a minimum number of students in a reporting group or subgroup required to publish results consistent with the protection of personally identifiable information (34 CFR § 200.7).

Scope

This policy applies to all public reports generated by employees, agents, or contractors of OHE.

Policy

OHE may release summary data, including aggregate student counts for all groups including those of less than 10. However, OHE may not release any other information regarding the group depending on the sensitive nature of the data.

Other information is defined as information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school (institution) community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty. Other information may include, but is not limited to: gender or sex, gender identity, race/ethnicity, Tribal affiliation, disability, citizenship, income and wages, expected contributions, cumulative debt, and birth date or birthplace information. Other information also includes aid awarded for the following programs, including but not limited to: Postsecondary Child Care Grants, Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program, MN Reconnect, Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant, Teacher Candidate Grants, Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and State Grant.

OHE may suppress other information for aggregate student counts of less than 10 for the following reasons:

- the information could identify an individual, or
- the report will be released to an audience that includes recipients other than individuals to whom OHE may disclose personally identifiable information pursuant to federal or state law.

In addition to suppressing small cells, OHE may:

- Recode categories with values of 95 to 100 percent to greater than or equal to 95 percent (≥ 95 percent), and
- Recode categories with values of 0 to 5 percent to less than or equal to 5 percent (≤ 5 percent).

Unforeseen circumstances, such as a pandemic or natural disaster, may affect the integrity of annually collected data. OHE will consider and decide upon potentially adjusted reporting and suppression strategies in such extraordinary times.

Individuals and organizations to which OHE discloses information will be directed that its re-disclosure to anyone who is not authorized to receive that information under state and/or federal law is prohibited. Disclosure of data by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education is subject to Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (34 CFR Part 99.31).

Additionally, any use of education records by another state agency, its employees, agents, or contractors is subject to and shall be consistent with applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) including, but not limited to, FERPA regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.32 through 99.35, regarding recordkeeping, re-disclosure, and destruction of education records.

Definitions

- Personally identifiable information (PII): Data that identifies the individual. For the purposes of education records, PII is defined by federal law as information that includes, but is not limited to a student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school (institution) community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; and information requested by a person who the educational agency or institution reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.
- Summary Data: Statistical records and reports aggregated from data on individuals in a way that individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable.

Classification of Information

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 13.02, subdivision 12 and Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 136A.162, data on students collected and used by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education are private data on individuals, including data on applicants for financial assistance collected and used by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for student financial aid programs administered by that office.



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