

Teacher Candidates of Color Scholarships & Expanded Grants to Student Teachers in Shortage Areas Program

Higher Education BILL SUMMARY

[HF 1409](#) (Rep. Nornes) / [SF 1585](#) (Sen. Anderson, P.)

Key Provisions:

- Creates a scholarship program for teacher candidates of color admitted to any Board-approved teacher preparation program throughout the state that incentivizes going into teaching and supports retention.
- Scholarships up to \$5,000 per term, maximum \$10,000 per year and \$25,000 total for a maximum of 2.5 years of full-time study.
- Expands Grants to Student Teachers in Shortage Areas program (statute 136A.1275) that supports licensure program completion for more candidates in understaffed licensure fields, geographic regions and diverse racial/ethnic groups.
- Stipulates amount of student teaching grants (up to \$7,500 based on need) to subsidize tuition and cost of living during the full-time, unpaid internship that typically lasts 12-16 weeks.

Why this Bill Needs to Pass: The lack of racial, ethnic diversity in Minnesota's teacher workforce (4.2%) is a crisis that contributes to the persistent and nation-leading achievement gaps in the state experienced by an increasingly diverse student population (31%). The lack of teachers of color and American Indian teachers has wide-ranging and costly implications for students, families, schools, communities, the state and our economy. The bill provides crucial incentives and financial support to enter and complete teacher licensing programs.

Return on Investment: Investing to diversify the teacher workforce will help meet state's major goals related to Higher Education Attainment, World's Best Workforce, and Achievement and Integration by addressing the need for change to close costly achievement gaps and provide equitable access to effective and diverse teachers for all students. Research shows that teachers of color increase the achievement of students of color. Closing gaps will support workforce development, strengthen the foundation for economic growth throughout Minnesota, and save taxpayer money spent on addressing socio-economic and criminal justice disparities.

Specific Short-Term Goals for MN: By 2020, double the percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers in MN from 4% to 8% (i.e., from 2500 to 5000), and increase the state's total of racially, ethnically diverse candidates in teacher preparation programs from 9% to at least 20% (i.e., from 700 to 1500).

Appropriations: Total to be determined by Higher Ed committees
(see *Coalition's proposal*)

Organizations Endorsing this Bill: See list on back side of the page.

(Written by the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in MN, 3-2-17)

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State Council Endorsements

- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
- Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
- Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

Education & Community-Based Organization Endorsements of this bill (as of 3/6/17):

- Tribal Nations Education Committee
- Education Minnesota
- MN Rural Education Association
- MN School Boards Association
- MN Association of School Administrators
- MN Association of Elementary School Principals
- MN Association of Secondary School Principals
- MN Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- MN Indian Education Association
- MN Education Equity Partnership
- Association of Metropolitan School Districts
- Educators 4 Excellence
- Ed Allies
- Voices for Racial Justice
- Equity Alliance of MN
- Intermediate District 287
- St. Catherine University Education Department
- Augsburg College Department of Education
- Macalester College Educational Studies Department
- SEIU Local 284
- Coalition of Asian American Leaders
- The Southeast Asian Diaspora Development Project
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)
- Center for School Change

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