

## MACTE Legislative Update, 2.3.21

Hello MACTE members. This update is a collaboration of the 2021 MACTE legislative liaison working group: Sally Baas, Marcela Kostihova, Kyena Cornelius, Laura Mogelson, Rhonda Bonnstetter and Cyndy Crist.

### **Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy**

On 2/4/21, Dennis Olson, Commissioner for the MN Office of Higher Education, gave a presentation on the Governor's budget requests for higher education. The request was for \$35 million for workforce and reskilling grants, \$1.3 million for student emergencies funding, and \$2.43 million for secondary student learning and college preparation.

The \$35 million for workforce stabilization grants is intended to provide affordable access to public colleges, universities, and tribal colleges for workers impacted by COVID and low income students. It includes two pathways for eligibility - one for displaced workers with incomes up to \$80,000, and one for students with incomes up to \$50,000. Grants would be administered by the institutions and would require a 25% in kind match. They would also connect with other financial aid and student services. Most students are accessing this funding for rent and transportation but are limited to \$1,000/student/year.

The \$2.43 million is requested for summer learning and college preparation to support two programs designed to address educational challenges caused by the pandemic.

The Governor's budget request includes an additional \$6.3 million for the State Grant program, and proposes exempting developmental education credits. A total of \$5.4 million is requested for teacher candidates to address shortages in the number of teachers of color and American Indian teachers, along with shortages of teachers in Greater Minnesota, specifically in shortage areas identified in PELSB's recent Supply & Demand report.

\$1 million is proposed to create a proactive admissions process for Minnesota public high school students entering their senior year, with the intention of closing equity gaps and increasing access to higher education.

Additional portions of the budget request addressed student support with postsecondary child care grant programs, improved concurrent enrollment training grants, and changes to the Minnesota Indian Scholarship program.

Finally, the Governor's budget requests \$46.5 million for the University of Minnesota system and \$63.5 million for the Minnesota State system to support these institutions in their recovery from the impacts of COVID on student enrollment and retention. The presentation also noted budget reductions of \$12.2 million in four programs which have previously been overseen by OHE.

## **Senate Education Finance and Policy**

No updates

## **House Education Policy**

On 2/3/21 the committee continued to hear testimony and Public comment on the EDUCATION sections of the House Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report & Recommendations. Dr. Bruce Corrie shared research related to the economics of racial disparities for BIPOC teachers. With recommendations for leveraging BIPOC assets to build the MN Economy.

Coming up for discussion next week:

HF505 (Lee) Community education teacher continuing contract and tenure status provisions modified.

HF603 (Jordan) Public labor relations modified. (Possibly will be moved to Labor Committee)

HF561 (Urdahl) School districts required to establish teacher mentoring programs, and staff development revenue allowed uses modified.

## **House Education Finance**

On 2/3/21 Yelena Bailey, PELSB Policy Liaison, shared data from the recent Supply and Demand Report. She cautioned that there are changes in reporting and in data maintenance systems that require more investigation before confidence in race and ethnicity data in the report can be provided. PELSB proposed a survey for teachers on years opposite the supply and demand report to get at issues regarding school climate and retention/attrition. She shared that the Board voted in support of the Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA [Bill HF217](#)). They are supportive of teacher preparation grants, removing testing barriers, mentorship programs and grants, school climate, and curriculum changes. Representative Sondra Erikson pushed back on the idea that Tier 1 or Tier 2 are not “professional” licenses and on the idea that testing be removed. Alex Liuzz clarified that PELSB supports removing the basic skills for all tiers and that content and pedagogy tests be moved to tier 4.

Also on 2/3/21 Rep. Hodan Hassan (DFL) introduced the ITCA [Bill HF217](#) to the committee. Paul Spies shared the details of the bill sections and students, teachers, and leaders provided powerful support in support of the bill. You can read a summary of the meeting here, including information about the amendments that failed to pass: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/SessionDaily/Story/15550>.

## **Bills to Watch**

Here are some bills of possible interest that we are tracking:

HF 156, Tier 3 Education Partnership Grants

HF 217, TOCAIT bill

HF 281, Teacher Mentorships

HF 288/SF 244, LETRS Grants

HF 309, Teacher Code of Ethics

HF 380, Pilot CTE Preparation Grant

SF 45, Minnesota Reads Task Force  
SF 220, Teacher Preparation, Dyslexia

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