

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2330

(SENATE AUTHORS: PUTNAM)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/10/2025	707	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Higher Education
03/26/2026	7007a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to higher education; establishing a student persistence grant program;

1.3 appropriating money; requiring a report.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; STUDENT PERSISTENCE GRANT PROGRAM.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education

1.7 shall establish a competitive grant program to support students enrolled in Minnesota public

1.8 postsecondary institutions that elect to participate in the program.

1.9 Subd. 2. Program requirements. The grant program must:

1.10 (1) serve an initial cohort of at least 1,000 students;

1.11 (2) prioritize students who demonstrate strong potential for degree completion but are

1.12 at risk of noncompletion due to academic, financial, or systemic barriers, including students

1.13 commonly described as in the academic middle, such as those with high school grade point

1.14 averages of approximately 2.5 or higher;

1.15 (3) improve student persistence and completion outcomes through proactive,

1.16 individualized coaching and coordinated academic and financial aid support; and

1.17 (4) require grantees to implement a structured support model that includes:

1.18 (i) assessment of student persistence risk across academic, financial, and social-emotional

1.19 domains;

1.20 (ii) tiered intervention strategies to prioritize support for students facing the greatest

1.21 barriers to degree completion;

2.1 (iii) targeted supports addressing academic progress, financial aid stability, and student
2.2 engagement; and

2.3 (iv) coordination with institutional partners to align supports with existing campus-based
2.4 services.

2.5 Subd. 3. **Eligible applicants.** Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations or other
2.6 organizations with demonstrated experience supporting student persistence and degree
2.7 completion for low-income students in Minnesota, including experience serving students
2.8 in the academic middle.

2.9 Subd. 4. **Contracted partner qualifications.** A grantee under this section must
2.10 demonstrate the capacity to implement the program described in subdivision 2 and must:

2.11 (1) provide a near-peer, one-to-one, or similarly individualized persistence coaching
2.12 model;

2.13 (2) demonstrate a successful history of operating student persistence or college completion
2.14 programs serving low-income students;

2.15 (3) demonstrate experience working across multiple Minnesota public postsecondary
2.16 systems, including institutions within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system
2.17 and the University of Minnesota system;

2.18 (4) demonstrate the administrative and operational capacity to serve a cohort of at least
2.19 1,000 students annually;

2.20 (5) demonstrate a proven track record of supporting students from families with incomes
2.21 at or below 275 percent of the federal poverty guidelines toward degree completion;

2.22 (6) demonstrate experience supporting students commonly described as in the academic
2.23 middle;

2.24 (7) maintain data systems capable of tracking student persistence, completion outcomes,
2.25 and key performance indicators required under subdivision 5; and

2.26 (8) utilize student engagement tools and practices designed to support proactive,
2.27 individualized interventions.

2.28 Subd. 5. **Reporting and evaluation.** (a) The commissioner must annually submit a
2.29 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with
2.30 jurisdiction over higher education finance and policy until all grant funds have been expended
2.31 and all terms in the grant agreement have been met.

2.32 (b) The report must include:

3.1 (1) participant persistence and completion outcomes, including retention rates and
3.2 credential attainment;

3.3 (2) financial aid renewal rates and credit accumulation trends;

3.4 (3) a comparison of outcomes to a demographically similar cohort who did not participate
3.5 in the program; and

3.6 (4) recommendations regarding program sustainability and potential statewide expansion.

3.7 Subd. 6. **Appropriation.** \$900,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general
3.8 fund to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education to award grants under this
3.9 section. This is a onetime appropriation.