

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) mission is to improve educational achievement by establishing clear standards, measuring performance, assisting educators, and increasing opportunities for lifelong learning.

MDE strives to be an innovative education agency, assisting schools, families, and other education providers with exemplary services that result in high academic achievement for all students, pre-kindergarten to grade 12, and adult learners.

Every learner will have access to a high-quality education that promotes his or her development to full potential through an outstanding Minnesota education system that is a world leader.

Core Functions

MDE focuses on four primary goals.

Improve Achievement for all Students: Raise overall student achievement levels and close the achievement gap that currently exists among students of color and students with disabilities by implementing standards, research-based best practices, measuring progress with statewide assessments, and promoting lifelong learning.

Enhance Teacher Quality: Improve teacher quality in Minnesota by implementing initiatives to increase the number of highly trained teachers, enhance teacher preparation, improve teacher retention in high-needs schools, and provide ongoing professional development.

Expand Education Options for Students and Families: Ensure that programs offering education options to families support quality schools and continuous improvement in student achievement. Create new choices to better meet the educational needs of all children, especially students from low-income families, students of color, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners.

Implement Education Finance Reform and Enhance Accountability: Encourage improved financial management of school districts and charter schools, make the system more understandable and accountable to the public, implement performance-based pay linked to student achievement gains, and enhance accountability for student learning through a comprehensive data system.

Operations

Office of Academic Excellence and Innovations

The Office of Academic Excellence is responsible for academic standards development, high school improvement activities, Indian education programs, school choice, charter schools, supplemental services programs, library development, the Faribault Library for the Blind, and school administrator and teacher licensing.

Office of Finance, Compliance and Special Education

The Office of Finance, Compliance and Special Education is responsible for calculating and distributing state aid to school districts and calculating school district property tax levy limitations, special education policy and compliance, food and nutrition programs for schools and child and adult care food programs, and adult basic education.

Office of Accountability and Improvement

The Office of Accountability and Improvement is responsible for statewide testing, federal education programs and funding, school improvement, professional development for educators, early childhood education, and research and evaluation.

At A Glance

MDE Customers (FY 2007):

- ◆ 824,653 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students and their parents/guardians
- ◆ Nearly 143,000 licensed teachers
- ◆ Approximately 1,700 public schools
- ◆ 340 school districts and 132 charter schools
- ◆ Over 80,000 adult learners
- ◆ Over 125,000 children in early learning programs.

Annual K-12 School Funding (FY 2006):

- ◆ State - \$6.3 billion or 69.7% of total funding
- ◆ Local - \$2.1 billion or 23.7% of total funding
- ◆ Federal - \$0.9 billion or 6.6% of total funding

In addition, the duties and activities described above, MDE provides services and assistance to students, teachers, parents, and school districts in the following areas:

- ◆ Academic Standards and High School Improvement
- ◆ Adult and Career Education and Service-Learning
- ◆ Assessment and Testing
- ◆ Compliance and Assistance
- ◆ Early Learning Services
- ◆ English Language Learners/Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- ◆ Food and Nutrition Service
- ◆ Library Development and Services
- ◆ No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Consolidated Federal Programs
- ◆ Educator Licensing and Teacher Quality
- ◆ Safe and Healthy Learners
- ◆ School Choice
- ◆ School Finance
- ◆ School Technology
- ◆ Special Education

Budget

MDE will administer over \$6 billion in state and federal funding for preK-12 and adult and career education funding. In addition, MDE will calculate over \$1.5 billion of annual property tax levy limitations.

Contact

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For information on how this agency measures whether it is meeting statewide goals, please refer to www.departmentresults.state.mn.us