

State Grant Background



MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGES

- > The average State Grant award at four-year institutions was \$3,717.
- > 93% of State Grant recipients had a family income of less than \$80,000

THE STATE GRANT PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS AFFORD THE COLLEGES THAT BEST MEET THEIR NEEDS.

The State Grant program:

- > Targets low- and middle-income families
- > Holds down additional borrowing
- > Fosters student choice
- > Invests in the state's economy by building the future workforce
- > Has statewide impact

"It is hard to imagine my life without the Minnesota State Grant.



I am really grateful to receive it and it makes school affordable. I don't know if I would be

getting a college education if I did not have the State Grant."

Ruba Kenyi, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Class of 2018 **HOMETOWN:** Rochester, MN **MAJOR:** Psychology **EXTRA-CURRICULARS:** Member of Black Student and Allies, member of Multicultural Committee, First Generation Initiative study assistant, works as a foodserver in the cafeteria



81,000+ students from across Minnesota receive a State Grant.

And they go to all kinds of colleges.

4-YEAR

PRIVATE

PUBLIC

2-YEAR

MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGES

College Affordability: An Agenda for Student Aid

There's been a bipartisan commitment at the Capitol to invest in the State Grant program and directly support students. But too many students and families cannot afford to pay what is expected of them. Financial challenges are a major hurdle to college completion. And State Grant awards have not kept up with the reality of the costs students face.

**A SMALLER SHARE
OF STUDENTS ARE
RECEIVING GRANTS
TODAY THAN JUST A
FEW YEARS AGO.**

2018 Request

This session we ask policymakers to invest \$30 million in college students through the State Grant program by reducing the student share — the costs that students are expected to pay.

This would:

- 1. INCREASE THE SIZE OF STUDENTS' STATE GRANT AWARDS, AND**
- 2. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MINNESOTA FAMILIES RECEIVING THE AWARDS.**

An investment this session would help students this fall. And it would move us closer to truly meeting the financial needs of Minnesota college students and their families.

A New Long-term Goal

It's time for Minnesota to make a bold, new commitment to college students. We propose a long-term goal of **ensuring that the State Grant program helps all low- and middle-income students from Minnesota who have financial need.** The State would:

- *Award grants based on realistic expectations for students and families* — better recognizing their financial situations and increasing grants for current recipients.
- *Restore the reach of the program* — serving all students from middle-class families who have financial need.

Students and families should be expected to pay — by working, saving, and even borrowing. And when families have costs they can't afford, the State Grant program should be there to help address their need.

The impact would be significant. Not only would low-income students receive more help, all middle-income students with financial need would receive grants as well.

Now is the time to act: policymakers can take the first step toward this goal during the 2018 session.

**MINNESOTA
PRIVATE
COLLEGE
COUNCIL**