

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.

MDE focuses on four primary goals:

- improve achievement for all students;
- enhance teacher quality;
- expand education options for students and families; and,
- implement education finance reform and enhance accountability.

At a Glance

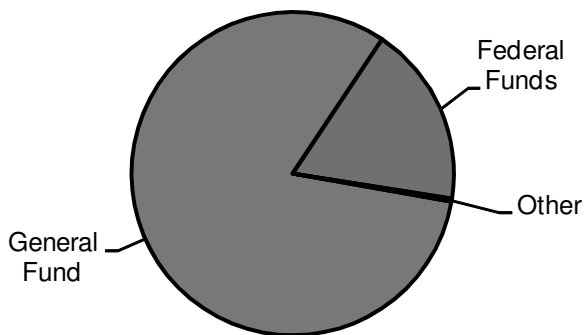
MDE Customers (FY 2009)

- 821,021 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students and their parents/guardians
- 55,727 FTE licensed teachers
- Approximately 2,006 public schools
- 340 school districts and 153 charter schools
- Over 73,387 adult learners
- Over 160,490 children participated in early learning programs.

Annual K-12 School Funding (FY 2009)

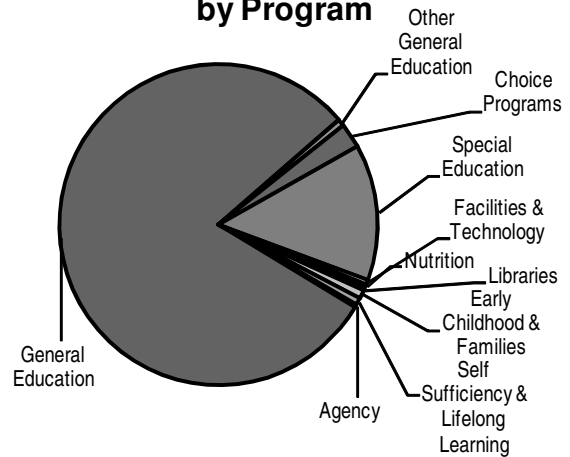
- State - \$6.9 billion or 66.8% of total funding
- Local - \$2.8 billion or 27.1% of total funding
- Federal - \$0.6 billion or 6.1% of total funding

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program



Source: EOS Fund Balance

Strategies

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 Options for Students: Ensure that programs offering education options to students and 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.

Finance Reform: 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

The **Office of Education Excellence and Accountability** is responsible for setting academic standards, issuing educator licenses, implementation of chartered school policies, developing and operating state-level IT system for education data and resource deployment, and the implementation and coordination of federal educational programs and funds.

The **Office of Early Learning and Educational Support Services** is responsible for preparing young children and their families for school success; providing nutritious meals for students in schools, and young children and adults in organized care settings; developing and extending statewide library services and administering the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library located in Faribault; and managing competitive and application grant programs.

The **Office of Education Innovation, Special Education Policy and Center for Postsecondary Success** is responsible for school choice programs, expanded online learning, and Indian education programs; special education services; and expanded high school learning initiatives, alternative rigorous coursework for college and career readiness, adult basic and career education, and alternative programs to meet student needs.

The **Office of Turnaround Schools (OTAS)** supports schools in the state identified as persistently lowest achieving. Through the unprecedented resources and accountability provided under the Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG), the OTAS seeks to create a system of support for eligible schools to implement dramatic turnaround efforts to boost student achievement.

School Finance is responsible for collecting student and financial data from school districts and charter schools, administering state and federal education aid programs, calculating school district property tax levy limitations, providing financial management assistance to local education agencies, and auditing data reported by local education agencies that drives state aid payments and levy limitations.

Research and Assessment is responsible for the development and implementation of a coherent assessment system that measures student knowledge and skills on Minnesota Academic Standards and the Minnesota English Language Proficiency Standards. The system meets state and federal requirements and provides timely information that educators can use to inform curricular and instructional decisions that improve student achievement.

Compliance and Assistance is responsible for monitoring school district and MDE compliance with certain state and federal education laws. The division provides training and resources to assist school districts, parents, and the department in maintaining compliance. The division also implements the Student Maltreatment Program and oversees rulemaking and data practices for MDE.

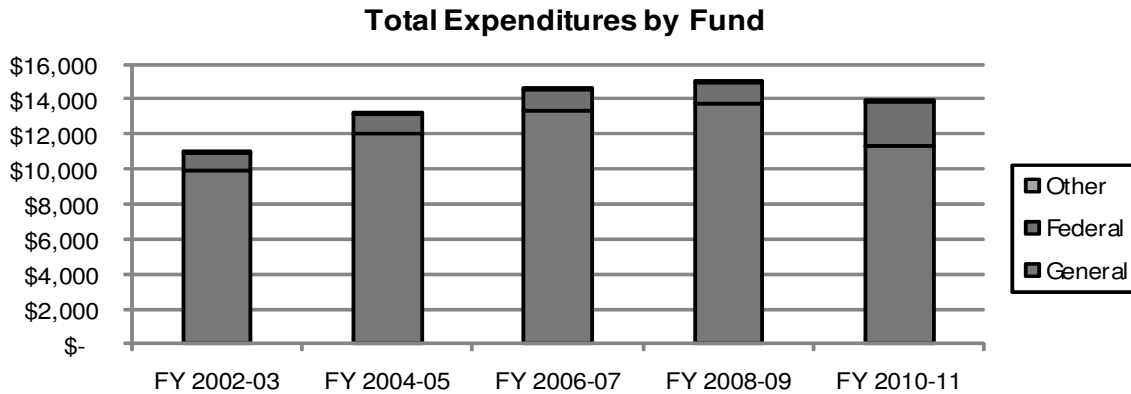
Administrative Services provides services in the area of agency fiscal (MAPS budget/spending plan activities, federal expenditure reporting and cash management, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, procurement, and central services) and human resource management to all agency programs.

These offices and activities provide the following services to the pre K-12 education community:

- Academic Standards
- Administrative Services
- Adult and Career Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Charter Schools
- Compliance and Assistance for Special Education Students
- Consolidated Federal Programs
- Early Learning Services
- Educator Licensing and Teacher Quality
- Education Innovation
- English Language Learners/Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Food and Nutrition Services
- High School Improvement
- Indian Education
- Library Development and Services
- Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library
- Research and Assessment
- Safe and Healthy Learners
- School Choice
- School Finance
- School Improvement
- School Technology
- Special Education

Budget Trends Section

In FY 2009 MDE administered over \$7.5 billion in state and federal funding for preK-12 and adult and career education funding. MDE calculated in excess of \$1.9 billion of annual property tax levy limitations.



Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 09/01/10.

Contact

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