

Agency Purpose

The mission of the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is to develop, maintain and enforce selection, education and licensing standards.

Established in 1978 by M.S. 626.84, the purpose of the POST Board is to regulate and enhance the profession of law enforcement throughout the state of Minnesota.

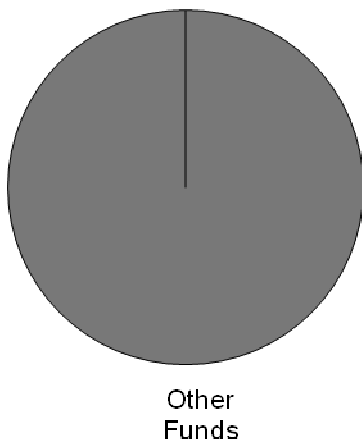
At a Glance

The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training licenses over 10,500 peace officers and part-time peace officer. It also certifies 24 two- and four-year post-secondary institutions throughout the state that deliver the Professional Peace Officer Education (PPOE) programs.

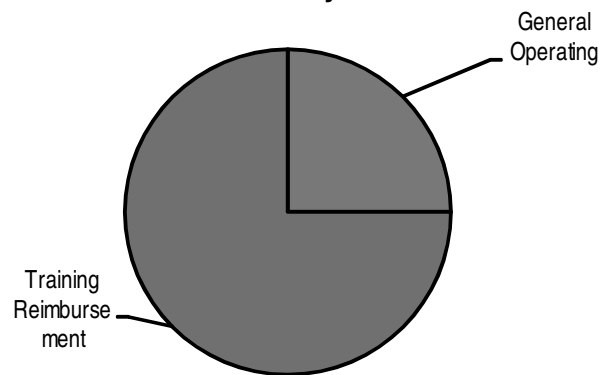
Compared to other states, Minnesota’s licensing system is unique because it requires all peace officers to obtain a post-secondary degree. There is no state-level police training academy system as in most other states.

Since 1978 the Minnesota POST Board’s standards for pre-service education and in-service continuing education training have been recognized as a model for other states who seek to adopt a similar system.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Activity



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

Strategies

The POST Board’s mission is implemented through the following core functions:

- administer license examinations;
- license peace officers and part-time peace officer;
- renew and restore peace officer and part-time peace officer licenses;
- manage a training reimbursement fund for law enforcement agencies;
- monitor compliance with standards of conduct;
- establish and maintain pre-service education curricula; and
- monitor compliance of continuing education requirements.

Operations

The POST Board licenses over 10,500 peace officers and part-time peace officers, and since the majority them are employees of police departments and sheriff’s offices, the POST Board also works closely with local units of government. As a regulatory agency, the POST Board’s licensing system ensures law enforcement officers are well-trained and meet the highest level of professional conduct.

Over the past biennium, POST

- Renewed 7,196 peace officer and part-time peace officer licenses
- Issued 764 new peace officer licenses
- Administered 1,677 peace officer exams
- Administered 58 part-time peace officer exams
- Administered 95 interstate reciprocity exams
- Administered 23 military reciprocity exams

Five-Year Trends in Agency Operations

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Peace Officer Exams	893	795	845	851	857
Part-time Officer Exams	21	38	39	36	55
Peace Officer License Issued	404	493	645	580	622
Part-time License Issued	17	40	45	49	50
Peace Officers Renewed	3,127	3,869	3,501	3,210	3,796
Part-time Officers Renewed	109	105	102	98	96
Interstate Reciprocity Exams	65	61	64	105	95
Military Reciprocity Exams	13	11	9	11	10
Training Fund	\$3,658,148	\$3,610,510	\$3,531,454	\$3,093,710	\$2,918,265
Eligible Officers	9,245	9,026	8,799	8,567	8,285
Per-officer Share	\$396	\$400	\$402	\$362	\$352
Complaints Received	17	9	12	12	20
Impartial Policing Compliance	2	10	2	8	6
On-site Agency Reviews	33	84	72	74	66
College On-site Reviews	5	5	5	5	5

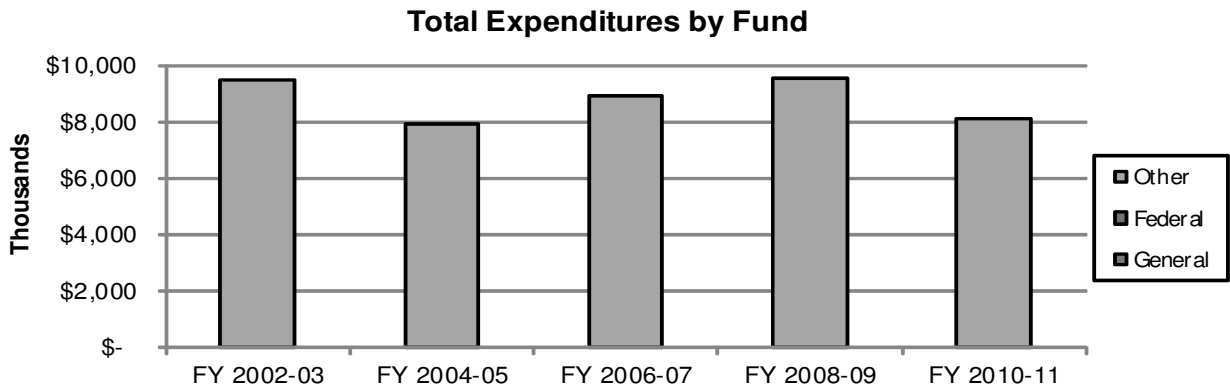
Key Activity Goals & Measures

- In cooperation with the Office of Enterprise Technology’s “Versa Gateway” project, improve the POST Board’s online computer services capabilities.
 - Identify reasons the system is “down” so often.
 - Educate online users through website tutorial.
- In cooperation with the Office of Enterprise Technology’s “Versa Regulation” project, improve the POST Board’s back-office computer capabilities.
 - Continue conversations with OET to identify solutions to back-office problems with data entry, data retrieval and reporting tools.
 - Cross-train staff to facilitate the ebb and flow of work projects.
- Ensure funding to meet with continuing education accredited sponsors.
 - Closely monitor budget to allow travel and lodging for POST’s Continuing Education Coordinator to conduct onsite compliance visits.
 - Conduct random reviews by mail or electronic means.

- Complete a comprehensive review and revision of POST licensing exams.
 - Host meetings with chiefs, sheriffs and officer associations to review exam questions.
 - Host meetings with PPOE faculty members to review exam questions based on class curricula.
- Review the 11 (soon to be 12) legislative directed mandated model policies for law enforcement.
 - Selected staff members will review each policy and compare with state statute.
 - Present revision recommendations to the Training Committee and then the full Board.
 - Consider statute or administrative rule changes if necessary.
- Work with local units of government to ensure adequate and professional policing in mainly rural areas where demographic shifts and economic cuts have stressed the budgets.
 - Respond to inquiries by mail, phone and emails from local elected officials.
 - Attend League of MN Cities' and Association of MN Townships' seminars and conferences.
 - Provide constructive dialogue, but not answers, to assist local decisions.

Budget Trends Section

Staffing reductions (1.5 FTE in the past two years), budget decreases and the transition to a new computer system have combined to challenge staff to meet the mission of the agency.



** FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 08/30/10.*

External Factors

Like other state agencies, POST is subject to the ebb and flow of economic and societal changes. Some of the trends affecting policing are shown in the chart under the “Agency Operations” section above.

Contact

For more information contact Neil W. Melton, Executive Director, at (651) 201-7788.

The POST Board's website at <http://www.post.state.mn.us> provides information about Minnesota's peace officer licensing system, news, updates, application forms, directories of board and staff members, and links to other related information.