



Gender-Neutral Single-User Restroom Grant

Report to the Legislature

Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 55, article 8, section 19, subdivision 5

For more information:

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As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197: This report cost approximately \$1,292.61 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

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Legislative Charge

Laws of Minnesota 2023, 1st Spec. Sess., article 8, section 19, subdivision 5, designated \$1,000,000 annually for grants to school districts for remodeling, constructing, or repurposing space for gender-neutral single-user restrooms. The statute reads:

“(b) A school district or a cooperative unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.24, subdivision 2, may apply for a grant of not more than \$75,000 per site under this subdivision in the form and manner specified by the commissioner. The commissioner must award at least one grant under this subdivision to Independent School District No. 709, Duluth, for a demonstration grant for a project awaiting construction.

(c) The commissioner must ensure that grants are awarded to schools to reflect the geographic diversity of the state.

(d) Up to \$75,000 each year is available for grant administration and monitoring.

(e) By February 1 of each year, the commissioner must annually report to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over education on the number of grants that were awarded each year and the number of grant applications that were unfunded during that year.”

Analysis

Applications Received

This was a competitive grant. MDE received applications from 31 different local educational agencies (LEAs) requesting a total of \$3,405,767.25. Applicants could apply for projects that would serve more than one site. MDE received applications from 19 public school districts or co-ops to develop single-user, gender-neutral restrooms at 31 different school sites. Additionally, MDE received applications from 12 different charter schools for 13 different school sites.

Accounting for the requirement to award grants to a geographically representative set of schools, MDE required all applicants to identify their congressional district. MDE received applications from every congressional district. The table below identifies how many LEAs applied for the grant in each congressional district.

Table 1. Number of applications received

Congressional District	# of District / Coop applicants	# of Charter Applicants
CD 1	4	0
CD 2	3*	1
CD 3	1*	1
CD 4	0	3
CD 5	1	2
CD 6	2	0
CD 7	4	0
CD 8	5	5

*One district has schools located in both the 2nd and 3rd congressional districts

District and Cooperative School Grant Recipients

MDE allocated \$1,550,000 over the biennium to go towards districts and cooperative schools. As required in statute, MDE awarded one grant to Duluth Public Schools as a pilot program. Additional recipients were selected based on a competitive process in which applications scored the highest were prioritized. This resulted in awards to 11 different local educational agencies while ensuring geographic coverage across Minnesota. MDE is committed to funding high-quality projects. Applications that did not meet a certain scoring threshold were unfunded.

The table below identifies the districts awarded grants, and key information about their project.

Table 2. District and cooperative school recipients

District Name	Congressional District	Number of Sites funded
Becker Public School District	6	2
Browns Valley Public School District	7	1
Duluth Public Schools	8	2
Hawley Public Schools	7	2
Houston Public Schools	1	2
Pine City Public Schools	8	2
Rush City Public Schools	8	2
Spring Grove Public Schools	1	1

District Name	Congressional District	Number of Sites funded
St. Anthony-New Brighton Public Schools	5	1
St. Cloud Area School District	6	1
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Schools	2 and 3	2

Charter School Grant Recipients

MDE allocated \$300,000 over the biennium to go towards charter schools. Three applicants were selected following the competitive review process, again prioritizing geographic coverage across Minnesota and the highest scoring applications.

The table below identifies the charters awarded grants, and key information about their project.

Table 3. Charter school recipients

District Name	Congressional District	Number of Sites funded
Lakes International Language Academy	8	1
Metro Deaf School	4	1
Minnesota Transitions Charter School	5	2
Trek North Jr & Sr High School	8	1

Conclusion

MDE funded 15 different local educational agencies, including one named recipient – Duluth Public Schools. At least one project was funded in each congressional district, effectively ensuring that the grant program reflected the geographic diversity of the state. Due to the competitive nature of this grant, 15 local educational agencies applied and were not awarded funding.