



When
Students
Succeed,
Minnesota
Succeeds!



Minnesota State College
Student Association

2016-2017 **State** Legislative Agenda

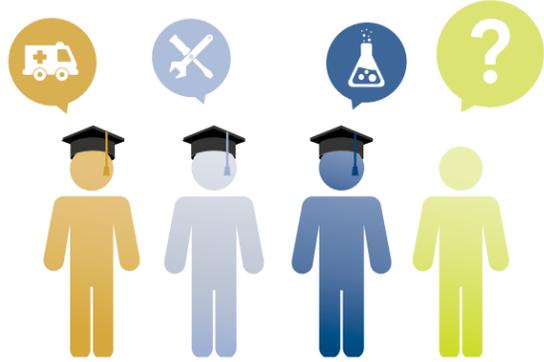
REFORM REINVEST RETAIN



Minnesota State College Student Association

OUR FOUR PROPOSALS

For decades, Minnesota has been a great place to live, work, and raise a family because we have one of the most highly educated workforces in the country. That workforce has created businesses large and small across the state because of the skills provided by Minnesota's community and technical colleges. Only our institutions can offer the programs necessary to meet our local, regional, and statewide workforce and education needs.



By the year 2020, three out of four jobs in Minnesota will require a post-secondary degree.*
* Georgetown University Study, 2013

To reach that goal, over a half million Minnesotans will need to graduate from a community college or university.

That's why MSCSA supports broad efforts to fund and reform higher education to ensure that students and Minnesota as a whole can succeed. We have worked to identify four crucial proposals that will lead directly to student success and to ensuring our campuses run as efficiently as possible.

1. LOW TUITION IS THE BEST FORM OF FINANCIAL AID

As it has been for years, MSCSA's top priority is to ensure that our colleges are affordable and accessible to every Minnesotan.

The cost facing students is a major barrier for many and is often the most prevalent reason a student drops out of college before completing a degree. However, the work of the legislature and Governor during the previous two biennia has begun to turn the tide on college affordability.

Thanks to the increased funding to the Minnesota State System and tuition limitations implemented, our students are currently paying 1 percent LESS than those who attended just four years ago.

We must build on this momentum and take action to further reduce the financial burden facing our students. While financial aid increases can help, the only sure way to guarantee students aren't prevented from college success due to financial concerns is to use the best form of financial aid—low tuition.

WE SUPPORT:
A **one percent reduction** in tuition for students in the Minnesota State System, specifically those attending community and technical colleges, to help ensure Minnesota can work and college is truly affordable.

2. INCREASED FUNDING TO DRIVE REFORM

MSCSA supports increased state funding for the Minnesota State System in order to maintain current services and to reform the system as needed to ensure every dollar, whether tuition or taxpayer, is spent efficiently.

Mn Comm & Tech Colleges receive **36%** less funding than similar institutions around the nation.*

University of Minnesota receives **23%** more funding than similar institutions around the nation.*

WE SUPPORT: Funding provisions of the Minnesota State budget request.

- \$143 million in new funds to help maintain current services on our campuses.
- \$25 million in funding to partner with the system in replacing the ISRS system.
- \$10 million in new funds to target financial assistance to students—specifically those who transfer using a new pathway or are at high risk of dropping out of college.

This new funding, paired with a reduction in student tuition, will be a huge leap forward in ensuring our public colleges are able to be the best community partner they can be all across the state.

* Midwest Higher Education Compact Report

3. DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

Students who take developmental education classes face the prospect of spending critical financial aid dollars and eligibility time before taking any courses for which they receive college credit. For some students, traditional developmental education works, but for many, it is nothing more than a delay in getting to work on their degree.

MSCSA supports several efforts to reform developmental education that will assist in removing barriers from student success.

We must undertake bold reform to ensure we are not placing roadblocks in front of students who can't afford another hurdle.

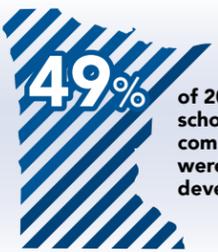
WE SUPPORT:

Accelerated pathways aimed at ensuring all students can finish developmental course work within one year.

A more robust multiple measures program to ensure students are not being placed in developmental education course work if it is not required by their chosen area of study.

Identifying best practices in developmental education and sharing them state-wide to ensure all students have access to the most beneficial innovations.

An in-depth study on alternative financial models on how students can pay for developmental education.



49% of 2013 Minnesota public high school graduates enrolled at a community and technical college were placed into at least one developmental education course.*

* Minnesota Office of Higher Education's 2016 Getting Ready Report

4. CREATING EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY

MSCSA has consistently supported efforts to reform our system and campuses to ensure they are running efficiently and are putting the success of students ahead of all other interests. We believe it is crucial that the system implement changes in student services, back office operations, and other core functions to ensure maximum financial return on investment.

MSCSA believes that changes aimed at improving student success could, when paired with lower tuition costs, lead to huge jumps in student degree attainment rates.

WE SUPPORT:

Efforts to improve student academic advising with a special focus on targeted programs for students at high risk of dropping out of college.

Reform efforts to consolidate services and reduce administrative costs to make campuses more efficient.

Increase the information available to students and parents regarding the impact of higher education choices. This could include a clearinghouse of data that shows the job placement rates, salary information, and true cost of academic programs.

- Understanding Choices +
- Academic Advising +
- Streamlined Services
- = Degree Completion!



Minnesota State College
Student Association

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WHO IS MSCSA?

The Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA) is a statewide association for students in Minnesota's public two-year community and technical colleges. Our mission is to ensure quality, affordable, and accessible higher education while providing students with representation, leadership development, and communication across the state.

We are MSCSA and **WE** are the voice of students. When you give your **SUPPORT** to community and technical colleges and **STUDENTS**, you provide economic growth for the state of Minnesota.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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