

# State Grant Background



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

**The State Grant program:**

- > Targets low- and middle-income families
- > Supports all college options
- > Has statewide impact
- > Holds down additional borrowing
- > Invests in the state's economy by building the future workforce



**71,900** students from across Minnesota receive a State Grant.

And they go to all kinds of colleges.



**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

330 State Grant recipients were on campus last academic year — that was **22 percent** of all Saint Mary's undergraduates.

The average State Grant award at Saint Mary's was \$4,840.

In total, **nearly \$1.6 million** in State Grant awards were made to Saint Mary's students.

*"I was very grateful to have received the State Grant. This grant helps me pay for my tuition here at Saint Mary's and has allowed me to focus more on my academics and hockey. With the assistance of this grant, I am greatly supported in order to set my life up for success while simultaneously putting less of a financial burden on myself."*



**Kennedy Kraus**, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Class of 2024 **HOMETOWN:** Kasson, MN **MAJOR:** Management **MINORS:** Public Relations, Global Diversity and Social Justice **EXTRA-CURRICULARS:** Women's Ice Hockey



# 2022 State Grant Agenda

We ask Governor Walz and the Legislature to prioritize college students through the Minnesota State Grant program, which supports students who need it most.

New State Grant investments help two out of five Minnesota resident college students.

## REQUEST:

**THE SHARE OF EXPENSES THAT THE STATE GRANT FORMULA EXPECTS STUDENTS TO COVER SHOULD BE LOWERED FROM 50 TO 46 PERCENT OF COLLEGE COSTS.**

Legislation that would do this with a \$42 million investment has been introduced: Senate File 2894 and House File 2859.

## BENEFIT:

### 1. Larger grants

- Help the 66,000 students who would already receive State Grant awards.
- Looking at all students, full- and part-time, the average grant increase would be \$635.
- For full-time students, grant increases would range from \$670 to \$1,170.

## BACKGROUND:

It makes sense that students should help pay for their college education. But the student share shouldn't be unreasonable. The State Grant program has outdated assumptions about what a student can afford to pay. Fixing this is important; it will help students stay in college and earn their degrees.

Lower-income students have been hit the hardest during the pandemic. Last year the number of Pell Grant recipients enrolled in college in Minnesota fell by 12 percent, while there was a drop of only 2 percent for those who did not receive Pell Grants.

Investing in the State Grant program makes the difference for college students, their families — and our state's economy.