

State of Minnesota
Legislative Audit Commission

Possible Evaluation Topics for 2020

1. Achievement and Integration for Minnesota

To what extent are the program's rules aligned with state statutes, and have any misalignments affected which school districts get funding? To what extent does the Minnesota Department of Education review and hold school districts accountable for meeting the goals established in their achievement and integration plans? Has the program made a positive impact on academic achievement or integration?

2. Board of Animal Health Oversight of Domestic Animals

How well has the Board of Animal Health fulfilled its responsibility to "protect the health of the state's domestic animals" with respect to companion animals? How well has it fulfilled its responsibility to enforce the provisions of the Commercial Breeders Licensing and Enforcement law?

3. Board of Cosmetology

What is the board's current funding level, and is it appropriate? To what extent does the board use its revenue effectively and efficiently? What are the different types of licenses the board issues, are the licensure requirements appropriate, and do they take into consideration necessary health protections?

4. Board of Psychology

What are the board's practices for processing applications and complaints? Who reviews the complaints, what criteria are used to make determinations, and are these practices reasonable? To what extent are disciplinary actions based on accepted criteria and guidelines?

5. Child Protection Removals and Reunifications

To what extent are removals of children from home later found to be unwarranted? To what extent are there delays in the process to reunite families, and what are the causes for those delays?

6. Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Program

How well do these programs prepare students for a teaching career? To what extent have these programs contributed to increasing the diversity of Minnesota's teaching corps? Is funding for the program sufficient, given the expansion in eligible programs? How well are state agencies implementing and overseeing this grant program?

7. DNR Special Revenue Funds

Does DNR ensure that its spending from dedicated funds and accounts complies with constitutional and statutory requirements? Is the department's use of dedicated revenues transparent and subject to adequate internal controls?

8. Driver Examination Stations

To what extent are driver examination stations adequately staffed and operated, and how does this vary across the state? How are appointments for driving tests granted, and to what extent are some exam slots reserved for certain driving schools? How has DPS spent additional appropriations it received to improve the scheduling of driving skill examinations?

9. Impact of Building Code and Permit Requirements

To what extent have DLI code changes or permit requirements had an impact on housing costs?

10. Individual and Small-Group Market Health Insurance

What are the disparities among Minnesota's nine geographic rating areas in individual and small-group market health insurance rates? How can the state reduce or eliminate these disparities?

11. Metro Transit

To what extent does Metro Transit operate efficiently and effectively? What are the utilization rates of the different modes of transit? How does total ridership compare with paid ridership, and how does the rider subsidy vary by transit mode?

12. Metropolitan Airports Commission

How efficiently and effectively does the commission manage and oversee the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport? Does this same level of oversight extend to the other airports under its authority? Is the commission's governance structure appropriate considering the level of economic activity at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport?

13. MnDOT Contract and Employment Goals

How well has MnDOT performed with respect to its goals and requirements for contracting and employing disadvantaged business enterprises, targeted group businesses, veteran-owned businesses, etc.? If it is falling short, why? How could the agency improve?

14. Monitoring and Regulating Pollution

What measures are used to evaluate how Minnesotans are protected from polluting industries? Are Minnesota departments partnering with industries to reduce regulation while sacrificing public health and safety? What social, environmental, and economic metrics are used to monitor and regulate pollution?

15. Public Utilities Commission Decision Making

Does the PUC appropriately apply state statutory requirements when making decisions? To what extent are PUC decisions affected by external pressures or PUC members' personal biases towards particular types of energy generation?

16. Trunk Highway Funding

How has MnDOT used money appropriated to the department from the Trunk Highway Fund? Has MnDOT's use of money complied with requirements in the state constitution and state laws?