

Postsecondary Enrollment Options

Topic Selection Background Information

May 2026

Program Overview	Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a type of dual enrollment program through which, traditionally, high school students earn both high school and college credit by completing courses taught by faculty at eligible Minnesota postsecondary institutions. Students in PSEO apply for admission at the postsecondary institution and are treated as college students but retain rights and supports granted to high school students. Other types of dual enrollment programs may be available to students; the intended participants and funding structures of these programs can differ.
Evaluation Questions	What is the financial impact of PSEO on school districts, postsecondary institutions, and the overall state budget? To what extent have participating entities complied with applicable legal requirements for PSEO? To what extent do all students have equitable access to PSEO? How well does PSEO meet the needs of students?
State Resources <i>Medium</i>	The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) pays the postsecondary institutions for costs related to students participating in PSEO. In Fiscal Year 2024, the state paid \$48.6 million to 55 eligible Minnesota postsecondary institutions for roughly 206,000 credits students earned through PSEO.
State Control <i>High</i>	Minnesota statutes outline general characteristics of PSEO-eligible postsecondary institutions and courses. Institutions must receive approval from MDE to participate in PSEO. Eligible institutions determine PSEO course offerings and enrollment requirements. Compared to public schools, MDE has less authority to enforce how private schools implement PSEO.
Impact <i>Medium</i>	Students in grades 11 and 12, and some in grade 10, may be eligible to participate in PSEO. In Fiscal Year 2024, nearly 14,000 students from public, nonpublic, and home schools participated in PSEO.
Timeliness <i>High</i>	The Legislature and members of the public have expressed serious concerns about how dual enrollment programs, including PSEO, are operating in the state. Examples of concerns include the cost of the program and how accessible the program is to students.
Feasibility <i>Medium</i>	OLA could conduct an evaluation using standard research methods. However, the evaluation questions are research intensive, so OLA will need to prioritize the questions it can address. Additionally, OLA would likely need to limit aspects of its review to a sample of schools.
Balance <i>Medium-High</i>	OLA last evaluated the PSEO program in 1996. We are currently evaluating MDE's oversight of autism spectrum disorder services in public schools.
Discussion	The Legislature established PSEO to provide high school students with a broader variety of courses and opportunities to pursue higher education. Given recent concerns about how the program is operating, it may be useful to conduct an evaluation of PSEO.