



Smart
INVESTMENTSSM
IN MINNESOTA'S STUDENTS

GETTING IT DONE IN 2011 AND BEYOND

GROWTH **&** JUSTICE

CENTER FOR A PROSPEROUS, FAIR & SUSTAINABLE MINNESOTA ECONOMY

SMART INVESTMENTS IN MINNESOTA'S STUDENTS

- To meet the demand for skilled workers — and to ensure families can enjoy a decent standard of living — ***we should, by 2020, increase by 50 percent the rate of Minnesota students who finish some post-secondary education.***

A FRESH WAY TO THINK

- **Invest in the whole student from birth to college** following four principles of smart investment.
- **Choose approaches proven to “work best for less”** based on evidence of outcomes and economic analysis.
- **Raise enough money fairly** using a progressive reform of the current tax structure — to cost-effectively support students all the way to post-secondary success.

WHAT ARE SMART INVESTMENTS?

1. Smart investments aim for compound effects.
2. Smart investments accumulate capital.
3. Smart investments address real disparities.
4. Smart investments are made with accountability for results.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Education has been a key contributor to Minnesota's economic success for decades and an important factor in the high quality of life in our state.
- The education needed for today's jobs has increased, making school learning, high school graduation and post-secondary education more important to employment and productivity in Minnesota
- Early childhood development programs yield significant benefits both for individuals and society through positive impact on literacy skills, school readiness, and proficiency with language and numbers.

WHY IT MATTERS (CONTINUED)

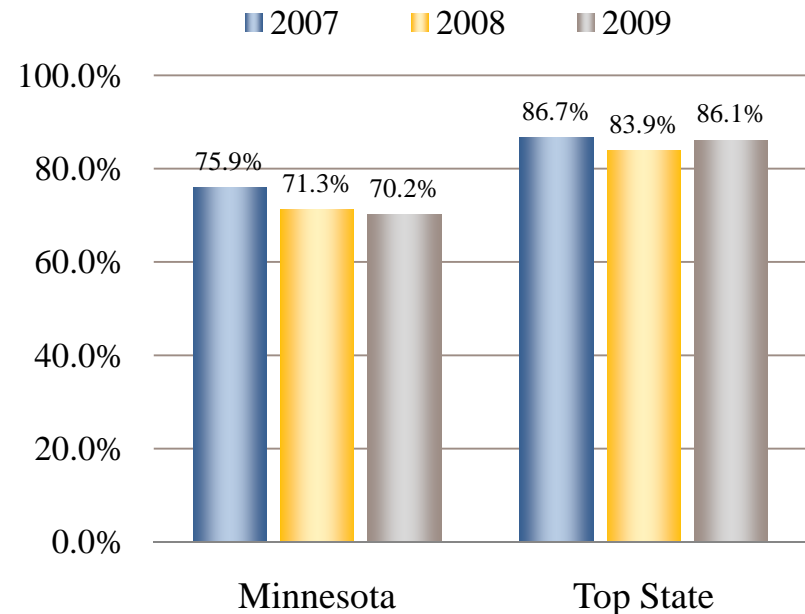
- Investments in education in the early grades lay a necessary foundation of early skills and learning that allows for more advanced skills and higher education later.
- On-track educational progress boosts the chances that students will graduate from high school, setting them up for success in higher education and for significantly higher earnings throughout their lives.

CHALLENGES – BIRTH THROUGH AGE 3

- Minnesota ranks only 28th among states for share of pregnant women receiving the prenatal care required for healthy pregnancies and fetal development.

Minnesota rates in the bottom half of states for prenatal care

The percentage of mothers getting care is dropping.



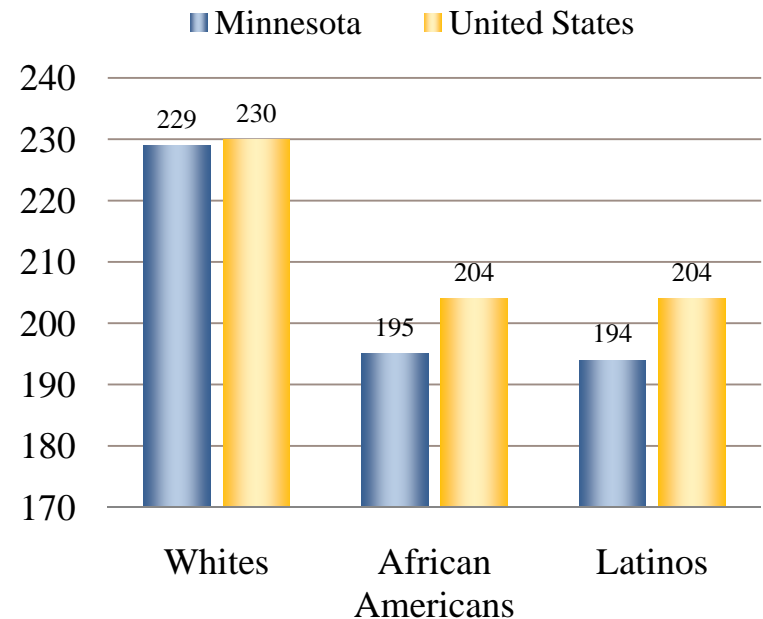
Estimates from the United Health Foundation

CHALLENGES – AGE 4 THROUGH 3RD GRADE

- Breakdowns show that by the end of the early education stage, Minnesota's children do no better and often worse than students nationwide when it comes to reading – a critical gateway skill.

Minnesota's 4th graders do no better than nation's in reading

Average 2009 score for federal reading assessments in 4th grade (after the early education years)



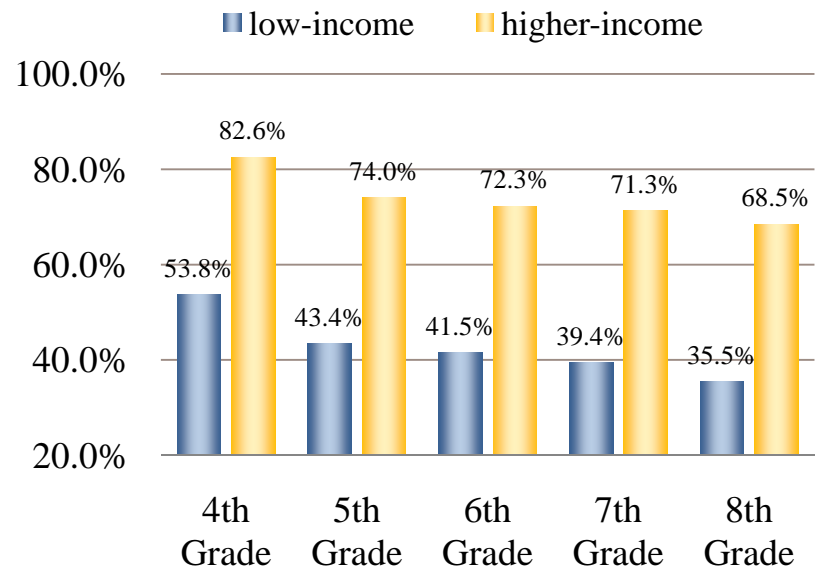
Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress

CHALLENGES – GRADES 4 THROUGH 8

- Large disparities exist in reading and math scores for the state's low-income students and even larger disparities exist for students of color – low-income or not.

Percent of students who met or exceeded state 2009 math standards

Minnesota must raise all scores and address the proficiency gap for low-income students



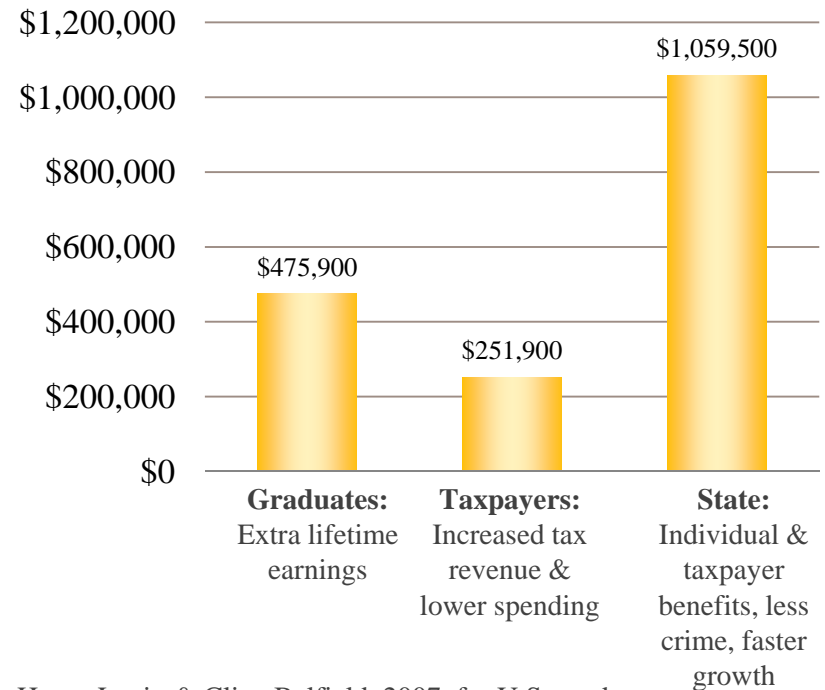
Minnesota Department of Education

CHALLENGES – HIGH SCHOOL

- Some 8,500 Minnesota students drop out of public high school each year. Slightly more than half are white, but the dropout rates for Latino and American Indian students are more than five times the rate for white students, and the African American rate is more than four times the white rate.

Widespread gains for each additional high school graduate

The percentage of mothers getting care is dropping.



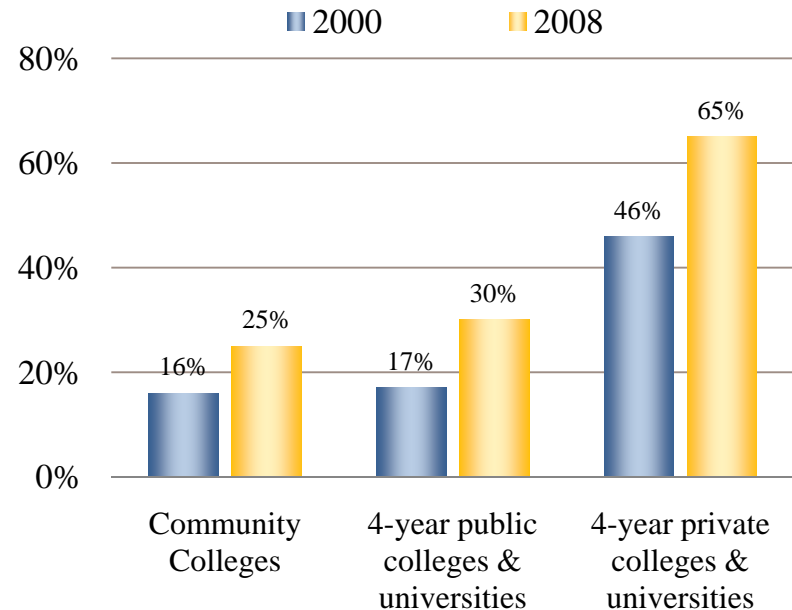
Henry Levin & Clive Belfield, 2007, for U.S. graduates

CHALLENGES – TRANSITION TO HIGHER ED

- The average share of annual family income needed to pay for a year of college in Minnesota rose significantly from 2000 to 2008

College affordability has declined in Minnesota

The average percentage of annual family income needed to pay for a year of college after financial aid.



National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

MAKING PROGRESS FROM BIRTH TO COLLEGE

Birth to age 3

- Nurse home visiting programs
- Expanded access to quality childcare

Pre-K (age 4) through grade 3

- Social skills training
- Quality half-day preschool
- Class size reduction
- Intensive focus on early skill acquisition

Grades 4 through 8

- Rigorous coursework
- Intensive tutoring
- In-school and out-of-school social supports such as mentoring

Grades 9 through 12

- College prep curriculum with teacher development
- Parent involvement
- Student counseling and progress monitoring

Transition to post-secondary

- Rigorous coursework
- Intensive tutoring
- In-school and out-of-school social supports such as mentoring

Birth to age 3

Age 4 through 3rd grade

Grades 4 through 8

Grades 9 through 12

Transition to post-secondary



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