



## An increasingly diverse Minnesota student body

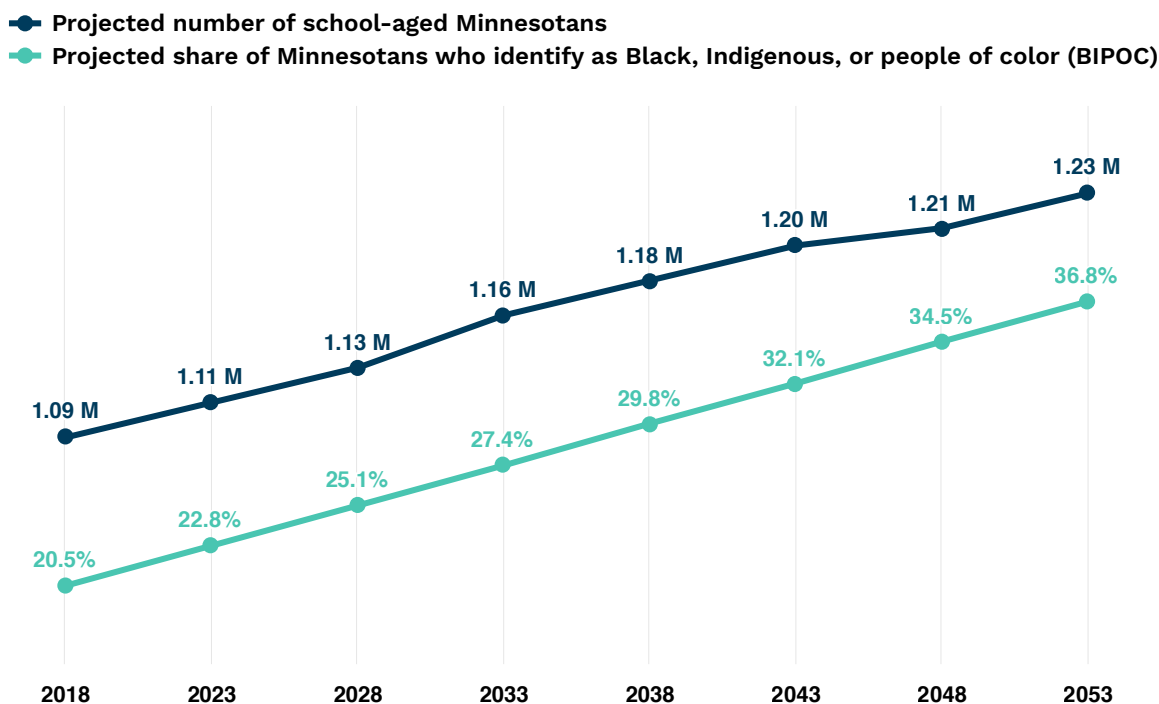
*If current patterns persist, more Minnesota students will be left behind*

MARCH 23, 2021

Access to an adequate system of education is the only promise the state constitution makes to Minnesota children. Research continues to show that not all children are thriving in that system. As Minnesota's student population grows and becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, a greater number of students will be left behind if current disparities persist. This trend underscores the need for bold action.

### Fact 1: Minnesota's population is growing and becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.

The number of school-aged young people in Minnesota is projected to increase by more than 100,000 over the next three decades. By 2050, fully one-third of Minnesotans will be Black, Indigenous, or people of color—an increase of 16 percentage points.



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center projections (updated October 2020)

**Fact 2: Public schools in Minnesota do not currently provide all students with even an adequate education.**

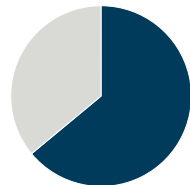
If current patterns continue, most Minnesota public school students are predicted to fall short of basic academic benchmarks by the time they graduate from high school. Students from low-income backgrounds, students of color, Black, and Indigenous students will fall even further behind their peers. The following illustrates how the status quo—if it persists—might affect students over time.

If our system continues to deliver academic outcomes at current levels, the **64,300** kindergarteners who enrolled in Minnesota public schools in 2019 can be expected to achieve the following outcomes:

**All students**

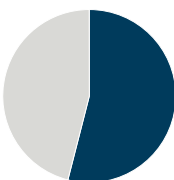
**4TH GRADE (2023)**

**64%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
41,100 students proficient  
23,200 students not



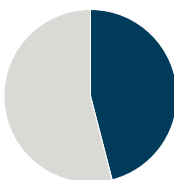
**8TH GRADE (2027)**

**54%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
35,100 students proficient  
29,300 students not



**IN HIGH SCHOOL (2031)**

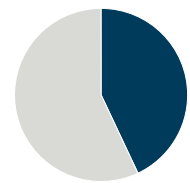
**46%** of students  
**college-ready** in math  
29,700 students proficient  
34,600 students not



**Students from low-income backgrounds**

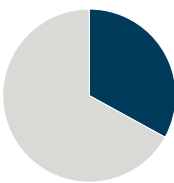
**4TH GRADE (2023)**

**43%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
10,700 students proficient  
14,000 students not



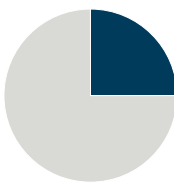
**8TH GRADE (2027)**

**33%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
8,200 students proficient  
16,400 students not



**IN HIGH SCHOOL (2031)**

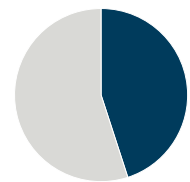
**25%** of students  
**college-ready** in math  
6,100 students proficient  
18,600 students not



**Students identifying as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC)**

**4TH GRADE (2023)**

**45%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
10,500 students proficient  
12,800 students not



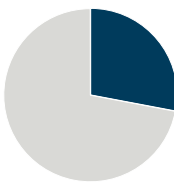
**8TH GRADE (2027)**

**38%** of students  
**proficient** in math  
8,900 students proficient  
14,400 students not



**IN HIGH SCHOOL (2031)**

**28%** of students  
**college-ready** in math  
6,400 students proficient  
16,900 students not



Source: Authors' calculations using 2019 enrollment counts, demographic counts, and Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) achievement from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and 2019 college readiness benchmarking from ACT