

[mn.gov/boards/optometry/](http://mn.gov/boards/optometry/)

**AT A GLANCE**

**Credentialing Services**

- 1,108 renewed licenses
- 42 new licenses

**Education Services**

- 1,085 reviews of reported continuing education
- 108 audits of reported continuing education
- 37 continuing education program approvals

**Complaint Resolution**

- Investigated 16 complaints
- Formal action for 5 complaints

Source: Annual Board Report FYE 06/30/2016

**PURPOSE**

The Minnesota Board of Optometry is responsible for protection of the public through the regulation of optometrists in the state of Minnesota. The Board was established in 1915 under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148. Regulation is accomplished through licensure examination, annual license renewal, continuing education requirements, as well as investigation and resolution of complaints against licensees. Approximately 75% of Minnesotans use some sort of vision correction.

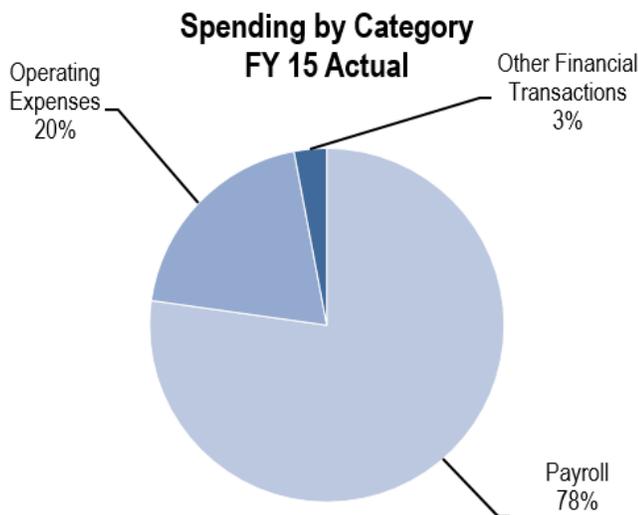
The Board's mission is to:

- Protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of optometry
- Ensure a standard of competent and ethical care

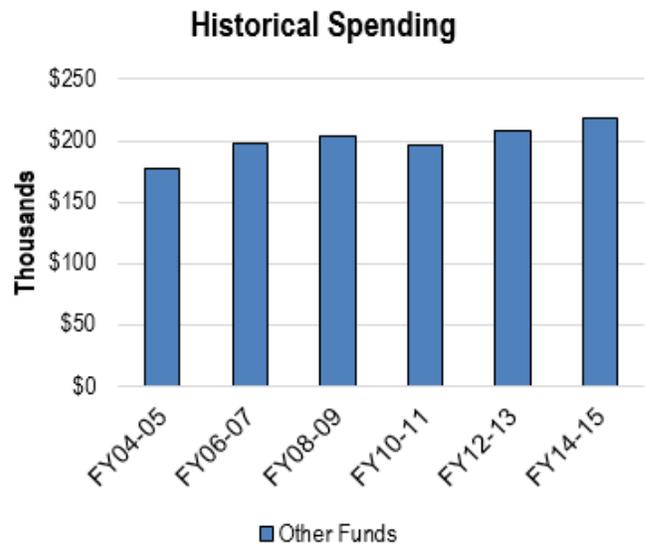
The Board contributes to the statewide outcomes of:

- People in Minnesota are safe
- Efficient and accountable government services

**BUDGET**



Source: BPAS



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) compels the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses such as salaries, rent, costs associated with disciplinary/contested cases and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation. The Board receives no general fund dollars.

In addition to Board operations, licensure fees fund activities that support multiple boards and/or other agencies. Some of these are: the Administrative Services Unit (inter-board), Health Professionals Services Program (inter-board), Prescription Monitoring Program (Pharmacy Board), Office of the Attorney General for legal services, and the Criminal Background Check Program (inter-board).

Board members communicate openly with licensees to ensure fees are used prudently. The Minnesota Board of Optometry renewal of license fees are in the lowest quartile in the 2016 annual survey conducted by the national board, the Association of Regulatory Boards (ARBO).

## STRATEGIES

The Board of Optometry regulates the profession by:

- Setting educational standards for initial licensure.
- Reviewing applicant's education and training to determine compliance with the board's licensure requirements.
- Reasonably ensuring that only applicants who meet licensure requirements are granted a license.
- Issuing initial and renew licensure for qualified professionals.
- Setting continuing education requirements for maintenance of licensure.
- Setting standards of practice and taking disciplinary or corrective action against misconduct for licensees.
- Responding to public and agency inquiries, complaints, and reports regarding licensure and conduct of applicants and licensees.
- Providing information about licensure requirements and standards of practice to citizens and other interested persons or agencies.

The Board's strategic plan is focused on electronic advancements that support efficient and effective licensure, public transparency and ease of use.

We provide services to 1,108 licensed optometrists in Minnesota and work collaboratively with continuing education and provider associations. The current board chair and one other Minnesota board member serve on the national Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.

Quarterly board meetings are driven by seven governor-appointed board members with other stakeholders in attendance. The agenda reflects quality improvement activities with key statistics tracked and shared with the attendees. Board discussion leads to action steps and directives to staff which is listed in the minutes of each board meeting. Those minutes are posted on the website.

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Percent of license renewals completed online	88%	93%	FY 2014 & FY 2015
Quality	Percent of initial applications completed online	65%	88%	FY 2014 & FY 2015
Quality	Average number of days it takes for an applicant to be granted their initial license	5 days	3 days	FY 2014 & FY 2015

The statutory authority for the Minnesota Board of Optometry is located in Chapter 148:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes?id=148.52>

The rules are located in MN Rules Chapter 6500. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=6500>

Additional statutes pertaining to all health licensing boards are found in Chapters 13, 16, and 214.