

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Educating our students to reach their full potential



DISTRICT196

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

School Board

Jackie Magnuson, chairperson
Joel Albright, vice-chairperson
Sachin Isaacs, clerk
Art Coulson, treasurer
Craig Angrimson, director
Mike Roseen, director
Bob Schutte, director

Superintendent

Mary M. Kreger - 651-423-7749



OUR BELIEFS

- Students come first
- All students can learn
- High expectations inspire students and staff to excel
- Learning is maximized in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment
- A well-rounded education includes opportunities in academics, the arts and athletics
- Learning is a lifelong pursuit
- Effective management of resources is critical
- Partnerships and collaboration enhance educational programming
- A culture of innovation and continuous improvement prepares students to be college and career ready
- An informed and engaged community guides effective decision making

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The state has majority responsibility to adequately fund public schools to ensure all Minnesota students have access to high-quality educational opportunities, regardless of race, economic status or where they live. But state lawmakers have failed to fulfill this Constitutional duty, putting at risk Minnesota's future prosperity and ability to compete in the global economy.

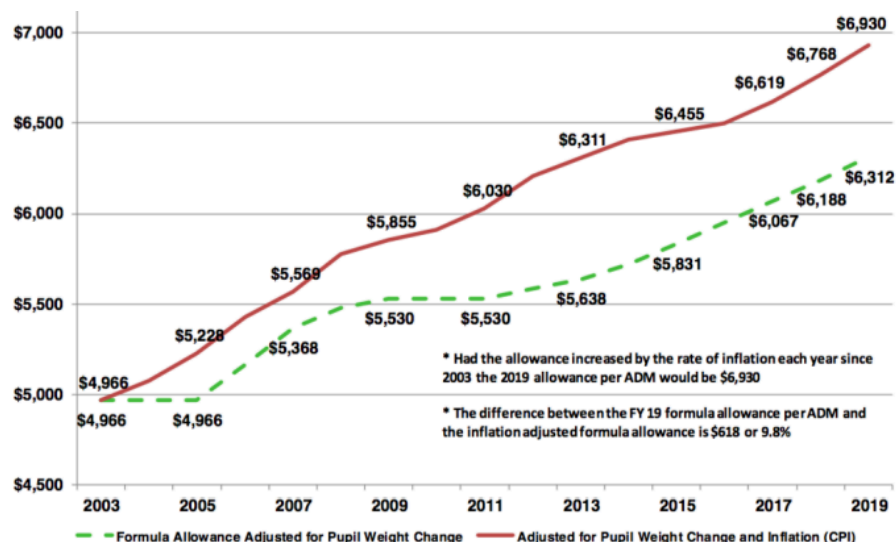
Increases for basic education averaged less than 1 percent per year in the first half of this decade and the unfunded portion of special education costs continues to grow. As a result, school districts across the state are in a revolving cycle of cutting staff and programs, then asking voters to increase local taxes to prevent further cuts. With the completion of each cycle, the level of service goes down while the needs of students continue to increase, and the opportunity gap grows wider for students in districts where local levies are unsuccessful.

On behalf of our 29,000 students and 155,000 residents, the District 196 School Board and Legislative Advisory Council members believe the Legislature should establish stable funding solutions for Minnesota schools by taking the following actions during the 2019 budget-setting session:

✓ Increase basic education funding by 4 percent per year

- The general education formula allowance is the single biggest source of revenue Minnesota school districts receive. Since 2003, the difference between the actual and inflation-adjusted general education formula allowance has grown to \$618 per pupil. If the formula had kept pace with inflation, District 196 would be receiving an additional \$19 million in state aid this year.

**General Education Formula Allowance 2003-2019
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)**



Source: MDE June 2018 Inflation Estimates

EHLERS

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One District. INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

Our Demographics

- 29,000 students
- 155,000 total residents
- 37% students of color (34% statewide)
- 23% of students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals (37% statewide)
- 15% of students receive special education services (16% statewide)
- 6% of students qualify for English Learner services (8% statewide)
- 40% of district households have preschool and/or school-aged children
- 86% of school-age students who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools, one of the highest "capture rates" in the metro area

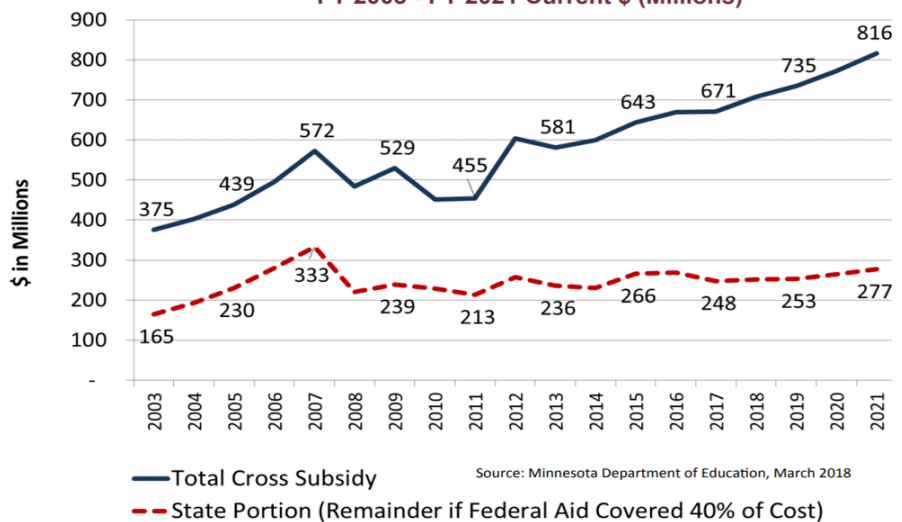


✓ Increase special education funding to reduce unfunded costs

- The state and federal governments mandate special education services but fund just 59 percent of what it actually cost District 196 to deliver those services last year. The other 41 percent in unfunded special education costs, known as the "cross-subsidy," were paid for out of the district's general fund. In fiscal year 2018, the special education cross-subsidy was \$700 million statewide and \$29 million in District 196 alone.

Special Education Cross-subsidy

Total and State Portion – (if Fed Funding Covered 40% of Excess Cost), FY 2003 - FY 2021 Current \$ (Millions)



✓ Treat homeowners fairly by increasing equalization aid

- State equalization aid helps balance the impact of school taxes for homeowners in school districts that have less commercial/industrial property wealth, like District 196, with those that have greater property wealth. However, the factors used to calculate equalization aid have not kept pace with the growth in property values over time and no longer provide the intended level of equalization or taxpayer fairness. With increasing reliance on local property taxes to adequately fund schools, state lawmakers should increase the equalizing factors for referendum, debt service and lease levies, and index them to keep pace with inflation.

For more information, go to
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