

# 2018 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

Jane K. Berenz - 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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On behalf of our more than 28,000 students and 150,000 residents, the District 196 School Board and Legislative Advisory Council members **thank the Legislature and Governor** for providing needed investment in E-12 education in the 2017 budget-setting session.

Funding approved through fiscal year 2019 make it **five years in a row of 2 percent increases** to the general education formula, the largest single source of revenue supporting student learning in our state. These consistent, at least inflationary increases are necessary to avoid the detrimental staffing and program cuts that resulted from state funding increases that **averaged less than 1 percent per year in the first half of this decade.**

Although 2018 is not a budget-setting session, we believe state leaders should continue discussion toward **establishing stable funding solutions** that support a "general and uniform system of public schools," as required of the Legislature in Article 13, Section 1 of the Minnesota Constitution. We believe the Legislature should:

#### ✓ Index the general education formula to inflation

- **\$579 per pupil** - This is the funding gap between the actual and inflation-adjusted general education formula allowance from 2003 to 2018. Fully fund this gap and index future general education formula increases to the annual rate of inflation.

#### ✓ Increase special education funding

- **\$27 million** - This is the cross-subsidy gap between the funding District 196 will receive and the actual cost of providing mandated services for students with special needs this year. Statewide, the cross-subsidy will top \$700 million.

#### ✓ Increase equalization aid to equalize the local tax burden

- **\$260 to \$290** - This range represents the additional annual cost to the owner of a \$250,000 home in District 196 for a \$1,140 per pupil operating levy, compared to the owners of a \$250,000 home in three high commercial property wealth districts in the west metro area.

#### ✓ Allow local control to renew existing operating levies

- **99 percent** - This is the percentage of operating levies renewed by Minnesota voters since 2011 (180 of 182). Give locally elected School Board members authority to renew levies that were previously approved by local voters and do not represent a tax increase.

#### ✓ Stabilize the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) Fund

- **\$279 million** - This is District 196's share of TRA's \$9 billion unfunded liability in fiscal year 2017. Stabilize the fund by adjusting benefits, increasing the employee and employer contributions, and fund the increase in the employer contribution.

February 2018

# One District. INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

## Our Demographics

- 28,000 students
- 153,000 total residents
- 35% students of color (32% statewide)
- 24% of students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals (38% statewide)
- 15% of students receive special education services (15% statewide)
- 6% of students qualify for English Learner services (8% statewide)
- 40% of district households have preschool and/or school-aged children
- 87% of school-age students who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools, one of the highest "capture rates" in the metro area



## Our Achievement

District 196 is a high-achieving school district with a record of outstanding achievement both in and out of the classroom. District 196 students consistently win large numbers of scholarships, as well as state and national awards in a variety of academic, arts and athletic competitions.

- **Graduation Rates/Closing the Gap** – The percentage of District 196 students who graduated in four years increased from 90 to 92 percent in 2017 and the gap in graduation rates between white students and students of color decreased for all but one group of students.
- **State Tests** – The percentage of District 196 students who scored proficient in reading, math and science exceeded statewide averages for all grades tested in 2017.
- **ACT** – District 196 students had an average score of 23.1 in 2017, 1.6 points higher than the Minnesota average, which was highest in the nation among states that offer the ACT to all students.
- **Advanced Placement/College in the Schools** – In one year, 764 District 196 students were named AP scholars for earning a score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) on three or more AP exams. In that same year, District 196 students earned 5,974 college credits from the University of Minnesota, valued at more than \$2.9 million.

## Our Awards and Honors

In the 2016-17 school year:

- 7 District 196 teams won state championships in marching band, volleyball, jazz and high-kick dance, boys' basketball, boys' lacrosse and wrestling.
- 2 District 196 high schools were named Top 10 schools at the National Speech and Debate Tournament.
- 19 District 196 students won individual state or national titles in speech, debate, chess, girls track and field, business and marketing, and wrestling.
- All 4 District 196 high schools made Newsweek's ranking of America's Top High Schools based on student achievement and college-readiness data.

For more information, go to  
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