



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2020 Legislative Agenda

Mary Gilbert Dougherty, Legislative Liaison

Session Preview

- Supplemental Budget Year
- Governor Walz — committed to repaying the budget reserve with any surplus
- Bonding Bill — main focus
- Policy Issues get more time
- All State and Federal House and MN Senate Seats — Up for Election
- Education Finance Task Force Convened

Important Dates

- November Forecast (this week)
- Session reconvenes February 11th
- February Forecast (end of February)
- Supplemental Budget will follow forecast
- Sine Die May 18th

- **Stabilize Education Funding**
- **Increase Diversity of Teacher Workforce**
- **Enhance Taxpayer Equity**
- **Enhance Local Control and Reduce Mandates**
- **Provide Resources for Child and Family Stability and Support**

Special Education

Eliminate \$707 million cross subsidy, estimated \$817 million by FY21

- State average cross subsidy \$757 per ADM
- St. Paul Cross Subsidy \$1,002 per ADM
- Charter School Cross Subsidy \$95 per ADM

Special Education

- Allow districts to recoup un-reimbursed fees charged by Intermediate districts and Co-ops
- Address district of residency for foster care and long-term open enrollment
- Allow district to close special ed programs under open enrollment
- Provide mental health aid for all level IV programs
- Enhance Medical Assistance Reimbursement for social work services
- Allow functional behavioral assessment as a stand alone evaluation

General Education

- Link the basic formula and local option revenue to inflation — Formula should be \$855 higher with CPI
- Link the extended time revenue to the inflationary increases in the formula — this formula has been frozen
- Stabilize compensatory funding — to address under counting
- Include 4000 PreK seats into the base for future years
- Reduce English Language Learner Cross Subsidy — \$17.1 million in SPPS
- Allow boards to renew existing referendum
- Continue school safety funding increase
- Continue funding for early middle college students

Increase and Diversify Teacher Workforce

- Increase funding for teacher residency programs at both the Masters and Bachelors Level
- Clarify that grant distribution should align with program calendars of proven programs
- Increase funding for mentoring for teachers of color and high need licensed areas

Enhance Taxpayer Equity

- Increase equalization of operating referendum, local option and debt service levies
- Oppose taxpayer subsidies of private education through vouchers, tax credits or scholarships

Reduce Mandates and Enhance Local Control

- Oppose any new unfunded mandate
- Reduce and streamline the reporting requirements for any underfunded or unfunded mandate
- Repeal compensatory set aside for extended time programs
- Allow required referendum notices to be mailed before early voting begins

Provide Resources for Child and Family Support

- Support additional resources for highly mobile and homeless families
- Increase school linked mental health grants and other child and family support services for at risk families
- Support high quality after school programs, including Ignite

Questions