

**JANUARY 6, 2017**

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW**

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# ABOUT ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 7th largest district in the state of MN
- More than 17,400 students
- 15.7% of our students are Special Education
- Employs nearly 3,000 SE Minnesota Community Members
- Our district spans 218 square miles
- 80+ spoken languages in our schools
- 76% of RPS teachers have an advanced degree (Master's Degree or the equivalency)
- 17 Elementary Schools, 4 Middle Schools, 3 High Schools, 1 Alternative Learning Center, and CTECH (Career and Technical Education Center)
- 6 District-Wide Options
- Provide services and enrichment from birth through adulthood

# AMSD PLATFORM

## Special Education Cross-Subsidy

- Provide sufficient and stable funding to ensure equitable academic outcomes for all of our students
- Increase special education funding to reduce the State share of the special education funding shortfall by 25 percent

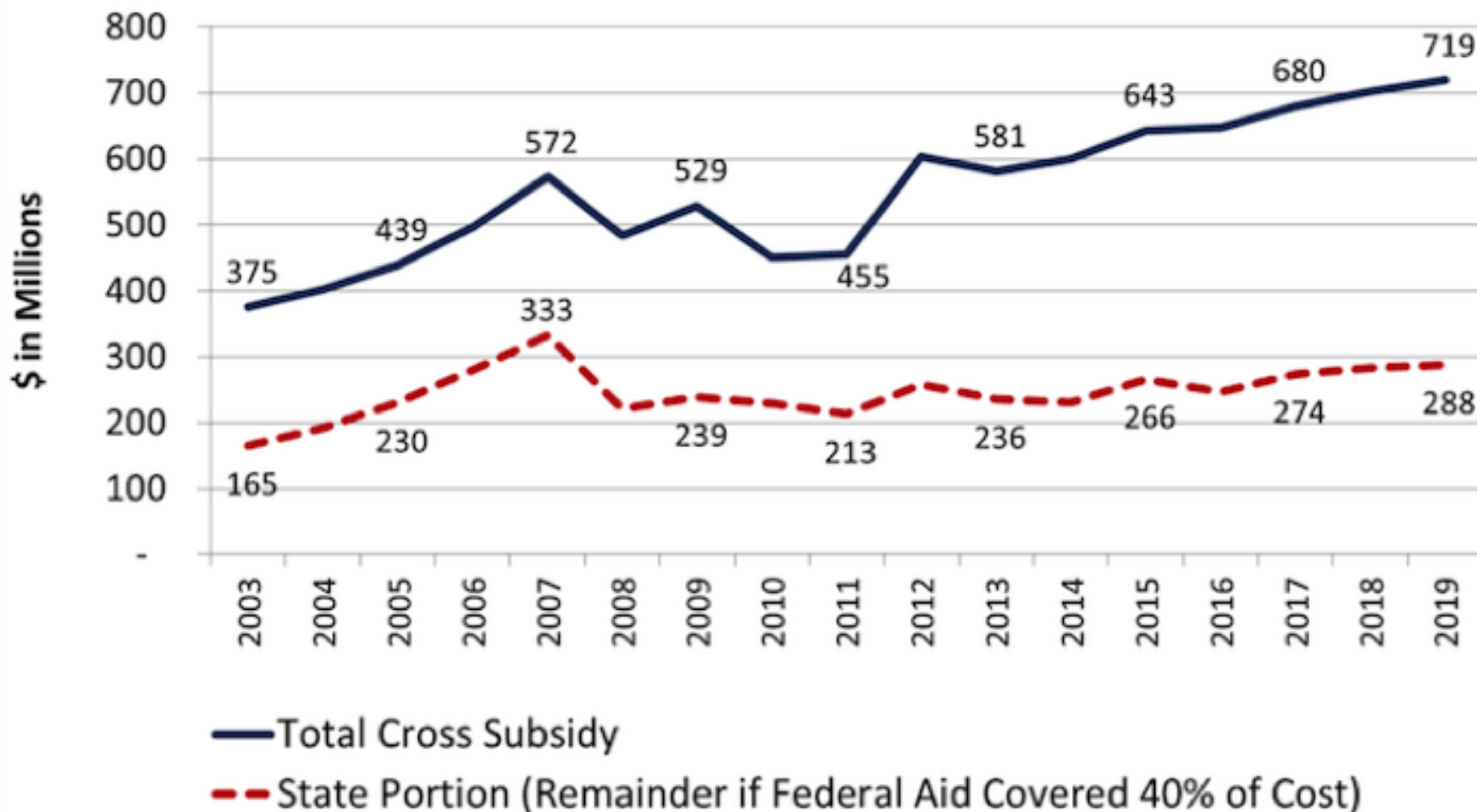
# MINNESOTA'S SPECIAL EDUCATION CROSS-SUBSIDY

- The state and federal governments have never provided the funding necessary to serve our special education students. The difference between special education expenditures and revenue is called the special education cross-subsidy.
- Consequently, school districts are forced to use money meant for regular classroom instruction to make up the difference.
- The Minnesota Department of Education's FY 2014 cross-subsidy report (latest data available), special education costs exceeded state and federal special education aid by over \$385 million for AMSD member districts.
- The statewide special education cross-subsidy was \$581 million in the 2013-2014 school year and is projected to grow to \$643 million by FY 2016 and \$719 million by FY 2019.
- This special education cross-subsidy is the result of federal and state mandates, inadequate state and federal funding, and the high level of services needed by and delivered to Minnesota's special education students.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION CROSS SUBSIDY, FY 2003 - FY 2019

## Total and State Portion , Current Dollars

### February 2016 Forecast



Even if the federal government met its goal of covering 40% of the cost of special education, the special education cross-subsidy in MN would exceed \$200 million.



# ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

| School Year                 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| RPS Special Ed Child Count* | 2252    | 2387    | 2454    | 2590    | 2746    |
| RPS October 1 Enrollment**  | 16443   | 16743   | 16889   | 17144   | 17445   |
| Special Ed Percentage       | 13.70%  | 14.20%  | 14.53%  | 15.11%  | 15.74%  |
|                             |         |         |         |         |         |

\*Taken from MDE Special Ed Unduplicated Child Count Report #4

\*\*Taken from October 1 Membership Reports on RPS website & in Registration/Records

# ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION CROSS-SUBSIDY

| (Millions of dollars)             | 2011-<br>2012 | 2012-<br>2013 | 2013-<br>2014 | 2014-<br>2015 | 2015-<br>2016 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Special Ed Costs</b>           | \$28.60       | \$31.50       | \$36.10       | \$40.60       | \$44.20       |
| - <b>State Aid</b>                | \$14.10       | \$16.70       | \$18.00       | \$22.40       | \$23.20       |
| - <b>Third Party Billing</b>      | \$0.90        | \$1.40        | \$1.90        | \$2.60        | \$1.80        |
| - <b>Federal Aid</b>              | \$3.90        | \$3.80        | \$3.70        | \$3.80        | \$3.60        |
| <b>General Fund Cross-Subsidy</b> | \$9.70        | \$9.60        | \$12.50       | \$11.80       | \$15.60       |



# AMSD PLATFORM

## Mandate Relief

- One size fits all mandates stifle innovation and creativity and consume staff time and resources. Locally-elected school boards are in the best position to work with their students, staff, parents and communities to address local needs and challenges.
- Refrain from enacting any new unfunded mandates

# UNFUNDED MANDATES

- Mandates have been regularly imposed on school districts without the corresponding allocation of resources to carry them out. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) have had the biggest impact on school districts.
- Each school district faces unique needs which depend on a variety of factors including demographics, geography, and district size. One size fits all mandates stifle innovation and creativity and consume staff time and resources.

# Rochester Public Schools: Impact of Unfunded Mandates

Minnesota has a number of rules, regulations, and policies that exceed federal requirements\*.

Some of these include:

- **Timing of transition services. MN requires addressing transition services during a student's 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Federal law mandates transition services begin at age 16.**
- **Restrictive Procedures. MN has rigorous and defined standards for restrictive procedures. Federal statutes do not address the use of restraint and seclusion in the public school setting.**
- **Caseloads. MN provides explicit caseload levels for some special education students. Specific caseload standards are not required by federal law.**
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution and Due Process Hearings. MN requires that districts provide a conciliation conference, offer facilitated team meetings, and schedule a prehearing conference prior to a due process hearing. Federal regulations do not require these processes.**

**Many of the MN state requirements that exceed federal regulations increase the cost of providing special education services.**

\*Minnesota Department of Education Memorandum:

"Federal Reporting Requirements Under Idea 2004, Section 608", February 26, 2016.

