2020 Legislative Preview

Today’s Materials:  www.amsd.org/preview2020

Twitter: @AMSDMN hashtag: #amsdlp #mnleg

Wifi: NEM-Conference Password: RadioShack

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Riding the Levy Referendum Rollercoaster

Mary Kreger, superintendent, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
About District 196

Fourth Largest in Minnesota
- 155,000 residents in 9 south metro communities
- 34 schools and learning centers
- 30,000 students and growing
- 86% of resident students attend District 196 schools

Our Students
- 37% students of color (34% statewide)
- 22% living in poverty (36% statewide)
- 15% special education (16% statewide)
- 7% English Learners (8% statewide)
About District 196

Triple-A Philosophy
Biggest Challenges

• Persistent achievement gaps
• Increasing mental health needs
• Lack of stable, predictable and equitable funding for E-12 education
• Grateful for funding increases in current biennium, but districts are still struggling
Stable, Predictable and Equitable Funding

General Education Formula

- Single biggest source of E-12 funding
- Has not kept pace with inflation
- Would be $639 more per pupil
- State budget process does not account for inflation

**AMSD asks: Link the general education formula to inflation**
Stable, Predictable and Equitable Funding

### SPED and EL Cross-Subsidies

- Services are mandated but not fully funded
- Special education cross-subsidy of $690 million statewide in FY18
- English Learner cross-subsidy of $95 million statewide in FY18

✓ **AMSD asks: Increase special education and English Learner funding**
Stable, Predictable and Equitable Funding

The Local Levy Referendum Option

- Established by the Legislature in 1971 as an option for to pay for “extras”
- Currently used to avoid cuts and maintain basic programs and services
- 90% of districts with an average of $1,000 per pupil and growing every year
- Increasing reliance on levies and lack of equalization aid creating a widening opportunity gap

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The Levy Referendum Rollercoaster in District 196

2010 – Levy fails
• $34 million in cuts over 3 years
• More than 100 teachers

2013 – Levy approved
• Stopped further cuts
• No previous cuts restored

2019 – $25 million shortfall
• $7 million in cuts for 2019-20
• Board calls for levy referendum question
2019 Levy Successful, But Came With A Cost

A Monumental Effort

• Diverted focus from teaching & learning work

• 34 levy site teams with 231 members and many other volunteers

• Thousands of hours and hundreds of presentations to citizens and community groups

• $50,000 to run information campaign
Stable, Predictable and Equitable Funding

Taxpayer and Education Equity

• Operating levies are easier to pass in districts with higher property wealth

• The quality of education a child receives should not be dependent on where they live

✓ AMSD asks: Increase equalization to reduce taxpayer & education disparities

✓ AMSD asks: Allow locally elected school boards to renew existing operation levies
2020 Legislative Preview

St. Louis Park Public Schools

Superintendent Astein Osei

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St. Louis Park Public Schools

About St. Louis Park Public Schools
The St. Louis Park Public Schools and the City of St. Louis Park boundaries are nearly identical and both public entities work closely and collaboratively to support residents of all ages. Both the schools and the city are growing. Over the past ten years, the student population has grown from approximately 4,200 students to nearly 4,600 students, with similar growth projected to continue.
2020 Legislative Preview

St. Louis Park Public Schools - stabilize education funding

Projected General Fund

- Actual 2017-18
- Actual 2018-19
- Forecast 2019-20
- Projected 2020-21
- Projected 2021-22
- Projected 2022-23

- Fund Balance - 2%
- Fund Balance - 0%
- Revenue
- Expenditure
- Revenue +add'l 2% in FY 2022 & 2023

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St. Louis Park Public Schools - stabilize education funding

Projected General Fund

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Revenue
- +add'l 2% in FY 2022 & 2023
- Fund Balance - 2%
- Fund Balance - 0%
Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff to address the mental health needs of our students; and
St. Louis Park Public Schools - increase and diversify the educator workforce

New Hires - Staff of Color

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Staff of Color</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Teachers of Color</th>
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<td>11%</td>
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<td>7%</td>
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<td>2019-20</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2019-20</td>
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St. Louis Park Public Schools - reduce mandates and enhance local control

- Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 121A.41, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: Subd. 12. Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices; alternatives to pupil removal and dismissal.

- A bill for an act relating to education; requiring paid orientation for paraprofessionals; appropriating money for paraprofessional training; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 125A.08.
Intermediate District 287

Superintendent Sandy Lewandowski
Minnesota’s changing student population

• **1 in 2** have experienced childhood trauma
  
  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey on Children’s Health, 2017-2018

• **1 in 4** report having long-term mental health, behavioral or emotional problems
  
  Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Student Survey, 2019

• These students are nearly **5X** as likely as others to seriously **consider suicide**
  
  Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Student Survey, 2019
Public schools are the de facto mental health system for the state

The responsibility to provide and pay for children’s safety and mental health needs has shifted from state and county-based providers to public schools.

Far beyond education

Schools are responsible for...

- Security
- School resource officers
- Physical restraints
- Medications
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Counseling
- Chemical dependency
- Crisis interventions
- Mental health, trauma, and behavior supports
The Toll on Educators:

- Physical injuries
- Mental Health
- Secondary trauma
- Compassion fatigue
- Relationships and family challenges

Educators Need:

- Professional development
- Trauma training
- Safety and de-escalation training
- Personal wellbeing supports

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Trauma is treatable. Schools must be adaptive.

A blended education and innovative mental health model

- Trauma-informed practices
- Evidence-based instruction
- Educator well-being
- Family agency
- Investment

Mental health treatment programs in schools have found a six-fold return on investment in reduced costs to government and taxpayer-funded programs.
Video: Why Minnesota Needs Therapeutic Teaching
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8he5xFAdETc&feature=youtu.be
Fully Fund mental health in schools.

The students who have experienced trauma and the educators who work with them deserve no less.
Education Commissioner
Mary Cathryn Ricker

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Legislative Panel

- Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL-Hopkins)
- Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)
- Sen. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester)
- Sen. Chuck Wiger (DFL-Maplewood)