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MEDIA RELEASE

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Education Groups Call on Governor and Legislators to Convene Special Session to Approve an E-12 Supplemental Funding Bill

Districts statewide collectively face more than \$822 million in special education funding shortfalls — the direct result of the state not funding important and mandated special education services

WHAT: The state's leading education associations are calling on the Governor and legislators to return to the Capitol to finish their work and pass an E-12 Education Supplemental Budget bill that addresses the massive special education funding shortfall.

- [LINK: Find your local School District's Special Education funding shortfall](#)

SAINT PAUL — On May 9th, parents, school board members, school administrators, and concerned citizens from across Minnesota held a press conference to urge legislators to use a portion of the state budget surplus to fulfill their obligation to fund important, and mandated, special education services. The Governor and legislative leaders responded by committing to a budget framework that included \$1 billion for E-12 Education. Regrettably, lawmakers adjourned the 2022 session without fulfilling that commitment.

Today, the state's leading education associations are calling on the Governor and legislators to return to the Capitol to finish their work and pass an E-12 Education Supplemental Budget bill that addresses the massive special education funding shortfall. School districts are forced to cover the shortfall – known as the special education cross-subsidy – by redirecting funds meant for all students.

Failure to approve supplemental funding will result in significant budget cuts and staff

layoffs for school districts throughout the state. A recent statewide survey shows that 87 percent of districts that responded project a deficit in the 2022-23 school year. A February survey of the members of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) projected a combined \$240 million in shortfalls for the 2022-23 school year. Rising inflation has only compounded the financial challenges.

Farmington Supt. Jason Berg said the failure to return for a special session to get their jobs done would be akin to if school district staff abandoned students in the final days of the school year. Educators across the state routinely devote additional hours of personal time every year to ensure their work is done and students are cared for.

"We have learners who need to complete work before the school year is done and we will ensure they do ... even if it requires we provide them additional time after the school year ends," Berg said. "I am asking the leaders of the Legislature to do the same thing. Do the hard, right work and complete what was started. That is what we would do with our learners!"

"Our district, and many others, will be forced into making reductions we wouldn't need to make if legislators completed the work that was started this session before the 2022-23 school year," Berg said.

"We have experienced firsthand the struggles our districts have had addressing the unfunded costs of providing necessary and required services to our students with disabilities," said Jamie Nord, Executive Director of the St. Croix River Education District and president of the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education. "Providing these important services is the right thing to do. The Legislature can, and should, do the right thing and provide the necessary funding."

AMSD and Osseo School Board Chair Kelsey Dawson Walton also implored lawmakers to fulfill their obligation to fund mandated special education programs.

"We all know that Congress has never come close to providing the 40 percent of the costs of special education programming envisioned in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)," Dawson Walton said. "Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the state to pay the costs not covered by the federal government."

- [LINK: View the special education funding shortfalls by district](#)
- [LINK: Key facts to know about Special Education funding](#)

ABOUT US: Minnesota's Leading Education Organizations

This release has been prepared through the collaboration of several independent organizations that represent public education including:



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Supporting organizations include:

- Coalition for Children with Disabilities
- EdAllies
- Minnesota Disability Law Center
- Minnesota Parent Teacher Association
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Multicultural Autism Action Network
- PACER
- Saint Paul Public Schools

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