

Special Education Cross-Subsidy Advocacy Social Media and Email Templates

Talking Points

- The underfunding of special education services is often referred to as the “cross-subsidy” because school districts “subsidize” the cost of special education with their general education fund dollars to cover the shortfall.
- State and federal law require schools to provide special education services. This allows students with disabilities and students who don’t have disabilities to be in school together and students who have disabilities to get the support they need.
- When special education is underfunded, districts must use other sources of money to provide special education services. Closing gaps in special education funding will help districts avoid using other funding sources, such as property tax levies.

How to Email or Tweet Your Legislators

- [LINK: View Contact Information for the Governor, Legislative Leadership](#)
- [LINK: View Contact Information of House Membership by School District](#)
- [LINK: View Contact Information of Senate Membership by School District](#)

Email template suggestions

Sample Message from the Minnesota Legal Services Advocacy Project:

*Dear Senator/Representative _____,
My name is _____ and I am a resident of _____ [town].*

I am writing to ask you to use a portion of the surplus to fund special education this legislative session. This is an important issue for our family and our community.

[add your district’s cross-subsidy number here, along with a personal story about your family’s experience. This could be: large class sizes, loss of a program your child liked, or issues with special education services]

- *Funding special education benefits all students – it provides schools more money to meet the needs of all students*
- *Closing special education funding gaps would result in the average district getting almost \$800 more per pupil*
- *Funding special education will free up general education revenue and could reduce the reliance on operating referendums*

Please support closing special education funding gaps this session.

Thank you,

Twitter / Social Media

Take a picture of yourself with your family or student, or even just a picture of a \$figure of the amount. Tweet a message to the effect of:

*I am a parent in Xxxxx. My district's special education funding shortfall is \$xxx.
If the #mnleg would fully fund the costs of special education, our district could Xxxxx.*

#mnleg #SpecialEducation @amsdmn @mnmsba

[[NOTE: You'll want to tag your legislators and other high profile social media influencers who can carry this message as well.]]