

ABOUT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 728

ISD 728, the 8th largest school district in the state, operates:

- » 10 Elementary Schools
- » 1 Alternative High School
- » 5 Middle Schools
- » 1 Online High School
- » 3 High Schools
- » 1 Early Education and Lifelong Learning Center



The student composition profile is:

- » English Language Learners: **2.1%**
- » Students of Color: **13.8%**
- » Students Qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch Status: **15.8%**
- » Students Receiving Special Education Services: **16.2%**

Over the last seven (7) years, ISD 728 has cut \$20.2 million dollars from its annual budget. ISD 728 turned to its voters in the Fall of 2019 to approve \$11 million dollars of annual operating levy expenses to cover our basic expenses and unfunded mandates. Expenses continue to increase in areas such as transportation, personnel, insurance, and special education. In fact, ISD 728 spends **\$10.9 million dollars annually out of its General Budget** to pay for unfunded special education mandates, which takes programming and support away from all learners. Unfortunately, State and Federal funding have not kept pace with inflation and increasing costs needed to operate schools. We are asking Legislators to support our 2020 Legislative initiatives, and to increase education funding, thus creating equity, providing support for current unfunded mandates, and ensuring quality experiences for ALL learners.

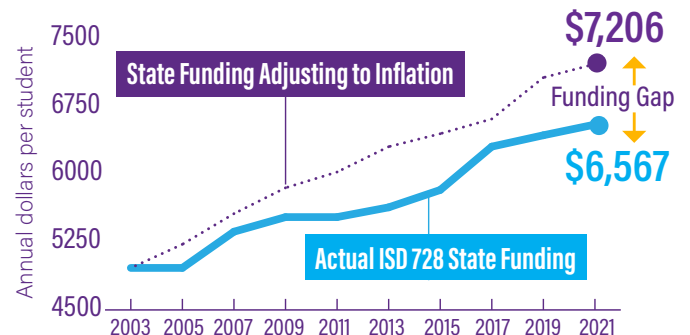
2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

ISD 728 is producing phenomenal student achievement results despite lagging the state and metro average for total revenue per student. Our students excel in the classroom, the community, on the stage, as well as on the fields and courts. The District is considered 'property poor', and taxpayers are paying an equitable share of taxes. However, a high percentage of local taxes are used to retire debt on buildings rather than to operate schools due to enrollment growth. The District receives **\$1,497 less** total General Fund revenue per pupil unit compared to the state average and **\$1,266 less** than the seven (7) county metro district average. At the same time, the District's contribution to mandated special education services has grown to **\$10.9 million annually**. If ISD 728 revenue per student matched that of the seven (7) county metro districts or the state average, District 728 revenue would increase by **\$16.8 to \$19.4 million** annually.

STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING

- » Link the basic formula to inflation to provide a stable and consistent funding stream that allows school boards and administrators to engage in long-range planning;
- » Allow locally-elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same level; and
- » Increase special education and English learner revenue to fund required mandates and programming.



REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

- » Oppose any new unfunded mandates and reduce existing unfunded mandates;
- » Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students;
- » Expand the Innovation Zone Law to include more school districts and expand flexibility to encourage initiatives such as allowing a school district to replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam if approved by the United States Department of Education; and
- » Repeal the requirement that a percentage of compensatory revenue be spent on extended time programming.

EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Support a single special education formula that:

- » Is stable and equitable to eliminate the cross subsidy impact;
- » Eliminates growth limits on individual school districts;
- » Removes individual caps and reinstates a proration factor to provide equity amongst school districts; and
- » Eliminates the census-based funding formula, as it is not tied to district expenditures.

Support changes to tuition billing that:

- » Creates a committee to design an equitable special education formula that includes tuition billing; and
- » Establishes rates in a consistent manner between all districts.

LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING ISD 728



Senator Jim Abeler (R) District 35

Capitol Office
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
651-296-3733
Email: sen.jim.abeler@senate.mn
Legislative Assistant: Tom Brennan 651-296-4847



Senator Michelle R. Benson (R) District 31

Deputy Majority Leader
Capitol Office
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
651-296-3219
Email: sen.michelle.benson@senate.mn
Legislative Assistant: Bailey Strand 651-296-4380



Representative Kurt Daudt (R) District 31A

Minority Leader
267 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5364
Email: rep.kurt.daudt@house.mn
Legislative Assistant: Jynell Boulka 651-296-0640



Senator Mary Kiffmeyer (R) District 30

President Pro Term
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3103
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
651-296-5655
Email: sen.mary.kiffmeyer@senate.mn
Legislative Assistant: Bennett Nass 651-296-1323



Senator Warren Limmer (R) District 34

Assistant Majority Leader
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3221
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2159
Email: sen.warren.limmer@senate.mn
Legislative Assistant: Lilly Abbott 651-296-4922



Representative Eric Lucero (R) District 30B

221 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-1534
Email: rep.eric.lucero@house.mn
Legislative Assistant: Rachel Brehm 651-296-6937



Representative Kristin Robbins (R) District: 34A

225 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-7806
E-mail: rep.kristin.robbins@house.mn
Legislative Assistant: Rachel Brehm 651-296-6937



Representative John Heinrich (R) District: 35A

211 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-1729
E-mail: rep.john.heinrich@house.mn
Legislative Assistant: Nicole Abraham 651-296-9463



Rep. Paul Novotny (R) District: 30A

301 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4237
E-mail: rep.paul.novotny@house.mn
Legislative Assistant: Mary McNamara 651-296-8891