

Rep. Heather Edelson
MN House of Representatives, District 50A
549 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Representative Edelson,

March 8, 2023

On behalf of the Edina Public Schools Legislative Action Committee, thank you for all your work during this busy and historic 2023 legislative session. We recognize how complex and intricate the legislative process is and appreciate your steadfast commitment to public education and work to support our students and our schools.

As we follow the movement of bills this session, we want to highlight our legislative priority – **stabilize education funding** – in hopes that its importance is at the forefront for all education-related legislation. This is top of mind for our community. The Edina School Board recently approved a \$4M cost containment measure for the 2023-24 school year in order to address the perennial state funding gap, the difference between the actual cost to provide an education and revenues received.

We are encouraged and appreciate all your work on HF18 and HF22 with movement towards addressing this current deficit. We want to express our strong support in this legislation that includes the elimination of ongoing cross-subsidies (Special Education + English Language Learners) in perpetuity. Thank you.

In Edina Public Schools, the combined SPED + ELL cross-subsidies total \$8.2M which are roughly 19% (\$25.8M) of our General Fund expenditures. The phasing out of both cross-subsidies would allow our district to close this significant funding gap and redirect monies to general classroom instruction as the funding has been intended.

This important level-setting is vital for fiscal stabilization moving forward allowing districts, like ours, the ability to support the needs of each and every student.

It's also important to note, despite this lack of funding, EPS provides outstanding special education services for students in both public and private schools in Edina and will continue to do so. These services provided by Minnesota's public schools for all students in our state are critical to the education and quality of life for students served by special education.

With much appreciation,

Edina Public Schools Legislative Action Committee

Julie Greene, School Board Member

Dan Arom, School Board Member

Janie Shaw, School Board Member

Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent, Edina Public Schools

Jody Remsing, Director of Special Education and Student Services, Edina Public Schools

Catherine Gump, Edina Community Member

Kate Quale, Edina Community Member

Sabeeh Mirza, 12th grade student, Edina High School

Raja Chinnakotla, 11th grade student, Edina High School

Sofia Doval, 11th grade student, Edina High School