



# **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

## **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM - DRAFT**

### State Budget Surplus

One of the priorities for Minnesota's state budget surplus should be funding the cost for consolidation of teacher retirement funds. The cost of consolidating these funds should not come at the expense of local property taxpayers, students' education and the employees that provide that education.

### Integration Revenue

The State of Minnesota should continue funding of both inter-district and intra-district integration revenue. Any further redistribution of integration aid should be tied to a specific consensus on the proper use of integration funding. The MDE should continue to cooperate with districts to further develop programs that provide choice, reduce segregation, close the learning gap, and promote integrated learning experiences for all students.

### Permanent Structural Change

Permanent structural change in Minnesota's tax system must be combined with school finance reform efforts being considered. Tax reform should include replacing school district reliance on property tax increases with other state taxes, greater equalization of the operating referendum, and continuing to restore the original level of debt service equalization.

### State or Federal Mandates

State or Federal mandates imposed on local schools must be suspended or accompanied with sufficient resources to enable public schools to meet those mandates such as special education underfunding and charter school lack of funding for resident students.

The Duluth Public Schools serve the City of Duluth and certain outlying areas beyond the city limits. This area constitutes 328 square miles. The majority of the schools serving the district lie within the city limits. These schools are located within or near a ribbon of land two miles wide and seventeen miles long which follows the shoreline of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River.

The Duluth School System currently provides service to 8,800 students in the city of Duluth and outlying townships, including PreK and ECFE programs and education at the Area Learning Center and Secondary Vocational Programs.

Independent School District 709 is committed to ensure that all requirements in hiring, training, promotion, personnel management practices and collective bargaining agreements are structured and administered in a manner which furthers equal employment principles.

(Approved at the February 25, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting.)