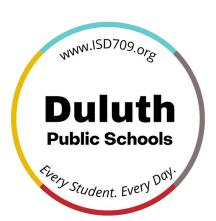
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# Duluth Public Schools

Fier Student. Every Day.

## Superintendent's Report

March 18, 2025



#### **OUR MISSION**

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

#### **OUR VISION**

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

#### **OUR CORE VALUES**

#### Learning



Developing a love of learning through lifelong inquiry.

#### **Excellence**



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

#### **Equity**



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

#### Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

#### **Belonging**



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

## **Topics**

- Student Representative Reports
   My'Aiana Taylor ALC
   Latasaija Garner Denfeld
   Kate Dean East
- Budget Reduction and Realignment Updates
- Federal Government Updates
- Legislative Updates
- Other

# Budget Reduction and Realignment

## **Budget Reduction and Realignment**







Focus Statement: Achieving necessary budget adjustments while aligning resources to the district priorities and positioning us to make effective decisions now and into the future.

Reality	Unacceptable Means	Results
"The Why"	"The Not How"	"The What"
Elimination of federal pandemic relief funds Inflation costs New unfunded legislative mandates requiring resources Ongoing effects of employee contract settlements Relatively stable enrollment Current projected deficit of for FY26 \$7.5M Actual FY26 deficit dependent on prior intended reductions in FY25 budget - minimum of \$2.6M in overloads, summer extension, overtime, travel, floating subs and attrition. FY26 deficit will be reduced to \$4.9M if current goal of \$2.6M in FY25 reductions is met FY26 Priority areas supporting every student, advancing equity and improving systems including new MS and HS new schedule and model, literacy work Increasing costs of special education services Have been able to mitigate some financial impacts through unassigned fund balance (a savings account) and Long-Term Facilities and Maintenance fund balance.	Violate laws, board policy, regulations & contracts Going into Statutory Operating Debt Avoid going below 8% fund balance Violate identified November 2023 referendum commitments  Maintain most social emotional and mental health supports Implementation of a new high school schedule Maintain and strengthen most academic supports  Develop reduction and reallocation options in isolation without representative stakeholder input Make decisions without proper or sufficient data	Balanced budget for 2025-26 Utilize a transparent and engaging process for budget reductions and reallocations for FY26 Prioritize and protect classroom needs as much as possible Alignment of funding and operations to district priorities:  Continue to support student needs throughout the district Continue to advance equity efforts throughout the district (e.g. Continue to allocate additional resources to students with the greatest need.) Continue to improve systems throughout the district Develop and forecast balanced budgets Examine all legacy practices with a lens of fiscal accountability Protects school district's fiscal health by continually seeking efficiencies and identifying new sources of funding, such as grants and investment opportunities

## **Federal Government Updates**

- We continue to monitor federal government changes and impacts on our schools, including immigration, and reductions in Department of Education funds and services.
- The potential dismantling of the Department of Education could have a significant impact on our funding and programming. Department of Education funding included resources for Special Education, Title, and Head Start, amongst other programs and services

### **Legislative Updates**

- We have multiple bills authored, including bills for the Duluth Promise and for our special education funding anomaly. (Video)
- Member Lofald and Member Loeffler-Kemp represented the district at the state MSBA lobbying day on March 10th.
- Barbara McDonald, President of the College of St. Scholastica, Charles Nies, Chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth and I will be testifying at the House Workforce Development, Labor, and Economic Development Committee on Thursday
- I will also be representing MASA and AMSD on Monday, March 24th as MASA Legislative Committee Chair Elect

## **Questions**