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# **Duluth**

## **Public Schools**

*Every 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 life-long 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 "The Why"	Unacceptable Means "The Not How"	Results "The What"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of federal pandemic relief funds</li> <li>• Inflation costs</li> <li>• New unfunded legislative mandates requiring resources</li> <li>• Ongoing effects of employee contract settlements</li> <li>• Relatively stable enrollment</li> <li>• Current projected deficit of for FY26 \$7.5M</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• FY26 deficit will be reduced to \$4.9M if current goal of \$2.6M in FY25 reductions is met</li> <li>• FY26 Priority areas supporting every student, advancing equity and improving systems including new MS and HS new schedule and model, literacy work</li> <li>• Increasing costs of special education services</li> <li>• Have been able to mitigate some financial impacts through unassigned fund balance (a savings account) and Long-Term Facilities and Maintenance fund balance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violate laws, board policy, regulations &amp; contracts</li> <li>• Going into Statutory Operating Debt</li> <li>• Avoid going below 8% fund balance</li> <li>• Violate identified November 2023 referendum commitments               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Maintain most social emotional and mental health supports</li> <li>◦ Implementation of a new high school schedule</li> <li>◦ Maintain and strengthen most academic supports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop reduction and reallocation options in isolation without representative stakeholder input</li> <li>• Make decisions without proper or sufficient data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balanced budget for 2025-26</li> <li>• Utilize a transparent and engaging process for budget reductions and reallocations for FY26</li> <li>• Prioritize and protect classroom needs as much as possible</li> <li>• Alignment of funding and operations to district priorities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Continue to support student needs throughout the district</li> <li>◦ Continue to advance equity efforts throughout the district (e.g. Continue to allocate additional resources to students with the greatest need.)</li> <li>◦ Continue to improve systems throughout the district</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop and forecast balanced budgets</li> <li>• Examine all legacy practices with a lens of fiscal accountability</li> <li>• Protects school district's fiscal health by continually seeking efficiencies and identifying new sources of funding, such as grants and investment opportunities</li> </ul>

# 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