

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2016

DRAFT

General Education Formula

Increase the general education formula and provide an ongoing adjustment to protect against the negative impacts of inflation.

Special Education

Full funding of special education services as identified in state statute.

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.

Election Enhancements

Increase the filing fee for school board candidates to a level equal with other local election candidates in order to more adequately offset the costs of providing required documents. In addition, allow the Duluth school district an opportunity consistent with other Minnesota school districts to realize the cost reduction opportunity made possible by moving to even year elections.

Mandate Reform and Reduction

Mandates that have negative, unintended consequences should be considered for repeal or revision. Included would be system-wide technology infrastructure investments that would result in enhanced efficiency, eliminating mandated newspaper publishing that could be more effectively done via websites and provide funding to implement staff evaluation systems.

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.