

Our Challenges

Duluth Public Schools (DPS) faces significant financial challenges approaching the 2025 Legislative Session, implementing \$7.6 million in budget cuts over two years. The district emphasizes the need for equitable supplemental education investments to address persistent shortfalls and new financial burdens.

DPS advocates for continued legislative support to:

1. Safeguard progress for all students, especially those from underserved communities
2. Alleviate budget cut effects
3. Maintain high-quality, culturally responsive education for all learners

By focusing on equity in funding, DPS aims to ensure every student, regardless of background, has access to necessary resources and support for academic and personal success.

DEMOGRAPHICS

All numbers from Student Information System as of 1/7/2025

Total Staff	2,318
Total Students	9,029
Free and reduced price lunch	4,002
American Indian	874
Asian	92
Hispanic	394
Black	453
Two or more races	995
White	7,461
Special Education	2,398
Early Childhood Special Ed	300



Duluth School Board

Kelly Durick Eder, *Chair*
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 709 Portia Johnson Drive
Duluth, MN 55811

 218-336-8700

 www.isd709.org

 info@isd709.org



Legislative Platform 2025

Every Student. Every Day.

Legislative Priorities



What does fully funding education look like?

The current funding our district receives is insufficient to equitably serve all our students, particularly in the face of rising costs and diverse student needs.

Fully funding education means ensuring every student, regardless of their background, has the resources and support to achieve at high levels and graduate on time.

By investing equitably in education and addressing the diverse daily experiences and needs of all students, we create a system where every learner, regardless of background or circumstances, can succeed. This success fosters positive growth for our state, city, and traditionally underserved communities, ultimately contributing to our collective prosperity.

Increased State Aid

DPS supports an increase in the basic general education formula by an **additional 3% for the 2025-2026 school year** to address staffing shortages, student and staff mental health supports, staff salary increases, and learning recovery efforts, ensuring all students have equitable access to resources

Permanent Funding Streams

We support **establishing permanent funding** for unemployment insurance, paid leave, universal free school meals, and Grow Your Own grant, promoting equitable opportunities for all students and staff. We request that the Legislature fully fund the cost of all of these programs.

Special Education Funding & Duluth Special Legislation

DPS supports **eliminating the Special Education cross-subsidy** and supports Duluth-specific legislation to **reimburse \$1 million for a state formula error** in FY16-FY19 which resulted in a \$5.8 million funding gap, ensuring fair funding for students with diverse learning needs

Technology Funding

DPS supports **increase state funding for technology equipment and support**, bridging the digital divide & protecting data for all students & staff.

Career and Technical Education Support

We advocate for **providing permanent investment in CTE**, supporting diverse career pathways and facilitating equitable workforce transitions for all students

The Duluth Promise

DPS, along with the University of Minnesota Duluth, The College of St. Scholastica, Lake Superior College, Duluth Chamber of Commerce, Area Partnership for Economic Expansion, the City of Duluth and the Duluth Workforce Development Board **support "The Duluth Promise," legislative effort to ensure a strong workforce for the Duluth area**, providing a coordinated and extensive approach to train and educate students to meet today's growing workforce needs and projected shortages in the Duluth area and region.

READ Act

We support **increased funding to fully implement the READ Act**, addressing Minnesota's low reading scores and literacy disparities. This funding will provide resources for teacher training, literacy leads, coaching, and evidence-based curriculum aligned with the science of reading. By investing in literacy, we ensure a brighter future for our children and strengthen Minnesota's economic prospects.

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Flexibility

DPS supports the Legislature **increasing long-term facilities maintenance revenue** and provide additional flexibility in its uses.

Solar for Schools

DPS supports adding additional funding to the Solar for Schools Grant and **increase the grant opportunity to 100% of total costs**.