



May 29, 2025

Dear SAFF member,

As SAFF enters its second year under its new name and renewed energy, our mission remains as vital as ever. The work of promoting fair education funding and equitable property tax policy, especially regarding education levies, is still unfinished. The advocacy provided by SAFF is critical to ensuring progress on these twin issues that continue to disadvantage SAFF districts compared to others across Minnesota.

In addition to this advocacy, SAFF is committed to building positive and productive relationships with our Legislators and State Agencies. By fostering these connections, we amplify the voices of superintendents and school board members, ensuring that the challenges faced by our districts receive the attention and action they deserve.

Your membership and continued support are instrumental in advancing these priorities. SAFF works to make sure issues of importance to you are heard, particularly for districts ranking lower in per-pupil funding and those facing difficulties in securing voter approval for operational or building bonds.

SAFF remains the only education funding-related organization dedicated entirely to these issues, serving as a critical voice in the fight for equitable school funding in Minnesota. We are committed to equipping Board Members and Superintendents with the information and resources needed to navigate an increasingly complex legislative environment.

Thank you for your past support of this vital organization. A bright future lies ahead, and I hope you will be part of it.

Sincerely,

DeEtta Moos,

SAFF Executive Board President



Schools Advocation for Fair Funding



SAFF Districts

- Albany
- Albert Lea
- Annandale
- Austin
- Becker
- Belle Plaine
- Big Lake
- Blue Earth
- Braham
- Cambridge-Isanti
- Cannon Falls
- Centennial
- Central
- Chisago Lakes
- Dassel-Cokato
- Delano
- East Central
- Faribault
- Forest Lake
- Fridley
- Hinckley-Finlayson
- Hutchinson
- Jordan
- Kasson-Mantorville
- Lake City
- Litchfield
- Medford
- Melrose
- Milaca
- Mora
- New London-Spicer
- New Prague
- North Branch
- Owatonna
- Paynesville
- Princeton
- Rockford
- Rocori
- Rush City
- Sartell-St. Stephen
- St. Francis
- St. Michael-Albertville
- Stewartville
- Tri-City United
- Waconia
- SCRED
- SW Metro
- Resource Training

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding (SAFF) works to ensure that all public-school children have equal access to a high-quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota. Our success does not depend on geography. Success depends on school districts with similar characteristics and their communities joining together to shape Minnesota politicians' education finance and policy decisions.

Working together, we will make a difference!

About SAFF Districts

- SAFF is a coalition of 48 Minnesota school districts. SAFF member districts have a wide range of student enrollment.
- Two common characteristics bring SAFF districts together:
 - * The student demographics in SAFF school districts do not generate significant categorical aid or other funding from the state. Thus, SAFF districts tend to receive the minimum in state funding.
 - * SAFF districts tend to be lower-property wealth districts where the taxpayer cost for a school levy dollar is high. This makes it more expensive for taxpayers and challenging to pass voter-approved levies to make up for inadequate state funding.
- SAFF districts are located throughout Minnesota, representing both suburban areas and greater Minnesota communities. Our membership includes some of the state's largest school districts as well as smaller districts serving fewer than 1,000 students.

Advantages of SAFF Membership

A constant presence at the Minnesota Capitol lobbying on issues that impact your district.

- Speaking with one voice on shared issues enhances the ability to influence state funding and policy.
- SAFF districts retain high-caliber, experienced lobbyist by leveraging their buying power with other districts.
- SAFF lobbyists have a deep understanding of the legislative process and expertise in education funding and policy.

Understandable data and resources to support communication on the issues that impact SAFF districts

- SAFF's staff can make complex issues understandable. For example, SAFF's Capitol Pizza video simplified the issue of equity without having to understand the complexities of school finance.
- SAFF maintains an excellent website with information specific to individual SAFF districts to assist communications with your community and legislators. MinnPost declared that the SAFF website was the go-to place for education funding information that, "... is home to an impressive collection of documents that might well be titled, "School Finance for Dummies.""
- SAFF provides timely and accurate information through legislative updates and action alerts during the legislative session and continued research throughout the year.

“The quality of a child’s education should not depend on their zipcode.”

More Advantages of SAFF Membership

Professional development and networking at SAFF meetings and events

- Excellent programming at **SAFF general membership** meetings connects administrators and board members with educational experts and political insiders to discuss timely and relevant issues. The meetings are held in Roseville. Previous program speakers included:
 - Key legislators, including House and Senate leadership and E-12 committee chairs, discussing their legislative priorities.
 - Dr. Bill Morris, one of Minnesota’s leading analysts of public opinion and political trends, sharing Minnesotan’s perspective on education and other issues.
 - A legislative session wrap-up from the Minnesota Department of Education, days after the end of the legislative session.
- SAFF fosters meaningful connections between administrators, school board members, and education leaders, ensuring that their voices can directly influence key decision-makers and shape policies that impact their districts
- At SAFF’s meetings and events, members become better informed and prepared to address funding and equity issues with their communities and legislators.

The director/lobbyist educates and engages a growing network of education advocates including parents, community members, and business leaders within SAFF districts and stands ready to support community engagement in your district.

- Our SAFF liaison organizes and hosts highly-effective “SAFF Days at the Capitol”, bringing community members and their legislators together with direct liaison support to discuss K-12 issues specific to their districts.
- If requested, one of our SAFF members will travel to SAFF districts to share a powerful, yet easy to understand, presentation for community members, school boards or staff that explains how schools are funded, why they continue to struggle financially and what can be done to help.



All public school children must have equal access to a high quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota.

www.schoolsforequity.org



Schools Advocating for Fair Funding

May 29, 2025

Centennial School District
Attention: Superintendent Jeff Holmberg
4707 North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Invoice

Membership Fee for 2025-26 Schools Advocating for Fair Funding

The membership fee is from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

District		25-26 Dues	
		Adjusted Rate	Cost Increase
12	Centennial	\$9,470.00	370.00

Please make a check payable to **Schools Advocating for Fair Funding** we are asking for payment to be made by **July 1, 2025**.

Please Send a Check to

Attn: Membership
Business Manager, Chuck Keller
220 S. Market St
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Springer at 612/381-7127.

Thank you for your interest and support. We look forward to serving you and your district during the coming year.
