

Schools for Equity in Education



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May 30, 2014

Superintendent Scott Thielman
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Public Schools
214 NE 1st Avenue
Buffalo, MN 55313

Dear Superintendent ^{Scott} Thielman:

Enclosed with this letter is the dues statement for the 2013-2014 program year.

I want to thank you for your SEE membership this past year. SEE's activity has been central to the progress made toward both greater adequacy and equity in the funding of education in Minnesota. Included in the provisions that have helped school districts throughout Minnesota—especially those with low property values—enacted over the past biennium are:

- The first significant increases in the referendum and debt service equalization program in two decades.
- Increases in the general education basic formula in each year of the biennium.
- Funding for All-Day/Every Day Kindergarten for all students.
- Increased board-approved levy authority that helps all low-funded districts in the state regardless of geographic location, solving the "doughnut hole" issue.
- Increased funding for English language learning programs.

Even with this progress, much work remains to be done. Funding for Minnesota's education system has not recaptured the ground lost during a decade of sporadic funding. In addition, there are two sets of recommendations that were developed last interim—facilities funding and funding for teacher evaluation—that will be on the top of the to-do list in 2015. All of these items resonate with SEE's mission statement: "All public school children must have equal access to a high quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota."

I invite you to join once again in the effort to make this mission central to legislative discussions and to make Minnesota's constitutional guarantee a true, and lasting, reality for the state's public school students. Your participation ensures that issues central to your district will be part of the Legislature's discussion in 2015 and beyond.

Thank you so much for your past membership and continued support as a SEE member. Together, we can continue the progress toward making good on Minnesota's constitutional promise of an adequate and equitable education funding system.

Sincerely,

Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education