

## Duluth Public Schools ISD 709 Profile

ISD 709 serves approximately 9,660 students in early childhood programs through grade 12. The district provides services to adults of all ages through the Area Learning Center and Community Education.

- 2 high schools
- 1 online high school
- 2 middle schools
- 9 elementary schools
- Birth to Age 5 programs
- Community Education for all ages
- 1 transportation office/bus garage
- 1 Area Learning Center with Adult Basic Education and offices for district administration and support staff
- Providing educational services and support to 8 alternative schools and community support programs

Total Students Grades K-12.....	8,458
High School Students Grades 9-12.....	2,896
Middle School Students Grades 6-8.....	1,790
Elementary Students Grades K-5.....	3,772
Birth to Age 5 Programs.....	1,202*
Receiving Free/Reduced Price Lunch.....	3,621
Students of Color.....	2,000
Receiving Special Education Services.....	1,396

3 schools with full-service community model

6,830 students provided with school breakfast and lunch per day

7,209 students provided with transportation services (includes non-public)

Maintain 2,477,826 square feet of building space and 346 acres of school grounds

\*All numbers from MDE as of 10/1/17 except Birth to Age 5 Programs; these are FY18.

# Legislative Platform 2019

**Graphics here**

Thank you for supporting these important issues during the 2019 legislative session. In the Duluth Public Schools we strive to reach every student every day. We all play a role in helping the young people of our community to be successful. Your efforts help to improve our schools, our community, and our future.

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### **Special Education - funding that works for all**

In its fourth year of implementation, the State's special education funding formulas continue to be a challenge for many districts, including Duluth Public Schools. An artificially low base year revenue, caused by charter school tuition impacts, continues to limit the amount of reimbursable revenue available as more and more required services and programs are needed. To address this funding gap:

- Remove the growth limit ceiling to allow all eligible costs to be considered for reimbursement
- Eliminate the district enrollment factor as a component of the special education revenue calculation
- Provide tuition billing cross subsidy funding for districts impacted by charter school rate increases
- Allow participation by resident districts in Charter School IEP services
- Recalculate the "base" revenue with a "greater of" component

### **Increase Basic Formula Allowance**

The basic allowance is a universal district support that impacts every student, every day. Without adequate funding of the formula allowance, districts are forced to make reductions or delay implementations in order to avoid budget deficits. While recent increases have started to bridge the funding gap created by prior stagnant funding years, a committed increase in this biennium will help district fiscal stability and slow down the reduction of student programs and services.

- Increase base funding by 3% each year of the biennium
- Add an annual cost of living increase

### **Former Duluth Central High School**

In 2015, the legislature provided an opportunity for tax abatement for the development of the former Duluth Central High School site. While this was an attractive incentive, other challenges with the site prevented development. There is a renewed partnership with the City of Duluth and Saint Louis County to partner in supporting the development of this site.

- Provide incentive for the development of the former Central High School site with tax abatement on services and materials for up to \$5M

### **School Based Early Education Programs - for all learners**

Investments in early education throughout the state are making a difference for Pre-K learners. Now is the time to commit to this foundational funding by creating a categorical revenue stream based on student enrollments and regional impacts. Flexible revenue uses and opportunities for funding collaboration would be important components to best meet the needs of all early learners.

- Fully fund the expansion of school-based early education programs allowing school district flexibility in implementation and design to best meet the needs of the local community

### **Mental Health Professionals**

While over half of the schools in Minnesota are benefiting from School Linked Mental Health Services Grant funding, districts like Duluth Public Schools continue to see a gap in funding, with only partial elementary level services covered by the current grant. Expanding this grant, and providing complementary funding directly to districts, will allow greater support to students in need of critical care coordination and provide district staff and families mental health educational opportunities.

- Increase State grants to fully fund mental health professionals on an ongoing basis

### **Increase Support for Full-Service Community Schools Model**

Full Service Community Schools work to coordinate holistic systems of support to ensure the needs of all students are met. Recognizing the importance of this cooperative investment, Duluth Public Schools was one of the initial districts to develop a service model meant to grow and expand to meet K-12 needs. Additional and adequate funding is needed to help Duluth and other Full Service Community School districts address the vital supports for students and families through this collaborative model.

- Provide funding for planning and implementing Full Service Community Schools