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Duluth Public Schools – 2023 Legislative Priorities

Duluth Public Schools 2023 Legislative Priorities will help our local legislators as they determine the two -year operating budgets for every school district in the state. We believe that critical choices must be made to stabilize and increase public education funding.

In 2023, Duluth Public Schools is prioritizing supporting the following legislative initiatives...

Increased State Aid for Public Education: Support an additional annual increase in the education formula by at least 5% and indexed for inflation. Increased state aid would allow the Duluth Public Schools to invest in:

- Staffing to provide much needed literacy and math interventionists and improved student to teacher ratios
- Revitalizing significantly outdated technology and curriculum resources
- Additional mental and emotional health supports and services for students
- Enhancing safety and behavioral supports
- Improved family and community engagement

Special Education: Support the state fully funding the special education cross subsidy for our schools.

Special Education Funding for Duluth: Support Duluth Public School's special legislation to recapture one-time special education correction funding of \$2 million dollars.

Construction Sales Tax Exemption: Support legislation exemption Duluth Public Schools from paying sales tax on construction material related to the new District Services Building and Transportation Center.

MTSS Framework: Support funding for MTSS framework support from MDE (the pipeline) and grants to support district resources to continue to implement.

CTE Support: Support a one-time investment in Career and Technical Education, allowing funds to be used for equipment, supply, and technology to support the CTE mission.

School Safety: Support a one-time \$500 allocation per pupil for school safety and support allowing local authority for schools to increase safe school levy revenue to address safety concerns.

LTFM Flexibility: Support an increase in the Long-Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) and expand allowable uses of LTFM funds. Remove the per pupil limit and broaden eligible uses.

Operating Levies: Allow school board renewal of existing and future operating levies.

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Solar & EV: Support adding additional funding to the Solar for Schools Grant Program and increase the grant opportunity to 100% of installation costs for a 40-megawatt array and help schools with federal matching dollars for EV charging stations at school properties.