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# **Duluth**

## **Public Schools**

*Every Student. Every Day.*

# Superintendent's Report

*January 28, 2025*



## OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

## OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

### Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

### Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

### Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

### Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

# Topics

- Student Introductions Reports
  - Myaiana Taylor - ALC Rep
  - Latasaija Garner - Denfeld Rep
  - Kate Dean - East Rep
- Budget Reduction and Realignment Update
- Spanish Immersion Expansion Update
- Federal Government Updates
- Legislative Update
- Other

# **Budget Reduction and Realignment**



*Focus Statement: Achieving necessary budget adjustments while aligning resources to the district priorities and positioning us to make effective decisions now and into the future.*

Reality "The Why"	Unacceptable Means "The Not How"	Results "The What"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elimination of federal pandemic relief funds</li> <li>● Inflation costs</li> <li>● New unfunded legislative mandates requiring resources</li> <li>● Ongoing effects of employee contract settlements</li> <li>● Relatively stable enrollment</li> <li>● Current projected deficit of for FY26 \$7.5M</li> <li>● Actual FY26 deficit dependent on prior intended reductions in FY25 budget - minimum of \$2.6M in overloads, summer extension, overtime, travel, floating subs and attrition.</li> <li>● FY26 deficit will be reduced to \$4.9M if current goal of \$2.6M in FY25 reductions is met</li> <li>● FY26 Priority areas supporting every student, advancing equity and improving systems including new MS and HS new schedule and model, literacy work</li> <li>● Increasing costs of special education services</li> <li>● Have been able to mitigate some financial impacts through unassigned fund balance (a savings account) and Long-Term Facilities and Maintenance fund balance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Violate laws, board policy, regulations &amp; contracts</li> <li>● Going into Statutory Operating Debt</li> <li>● Avoid going below 8% fund balance</li> <li>● Violate identified November 2023 referendum commitments               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintain most social emotional and mental health supports</li> <li>○ Implementation of a new high school schedule</li> <li>○ Maintain and strengthen most academic supports</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Develop reduction and reallocation options in isolation without representative stakeholder input</li> <li>● Make decisions without proper or sufficient data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Balanced budget for 2025-26</li> <li>● Utilize a transparent and engaging process for budget reductions and reallocations for FY26</li> <li>● Prioritize and protect classroom needs as much as possible</li> <li>● Alignment of funding and operations to district priorities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue to support student needs throughout the district</li> <li>○ Continue to advance equity efforts throughout the district (e.g. Continue to allocate additional resources to students with the greatest need.)</li> <li>○ Continue to improve systems throughout the district</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Develop and forecast balanced budgets</li> <li>● Examine all legacy practices with a lens of fiscal accountability</li> <li>● Protects school district's fiscal health by continually seeking efficiencies and identifying new sources of funding, such as grants and investment opportunities</li> </ul>

# Displacement Timeline

- Jan 15 Final docs due - Elementary, Secondary, HR & Operations, Bus Services, TLE, etc.
- Jan 21-24 HR determines final “who” is being displaced (\*first round)
- Jan 27 Principals and supervisors receive notification of who will be displaced\*
- Jan 27-30 Principals and supervisors communicate to displaced individuals\*
- Jan 31 HR displacement letters are sent\*
- Feb 1 Retirement notification

# Spanish Immersion Expansion Update

- Lowell Spanish Immersion Parent meeting: January 13th
- Myers-Wilkins Parent Information Night: February 24th
  - Meeting for current Myers-Wilkins families to learn about changes and opportunity
- Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Information Night: February 26th 6:00-7:00 PM
  - Meeting for incoming kindergarten and 1st grade families to learn about immersion programming options
- Lowell Spanish Immersion Information Night: February 27th 6:00-7:00 PM
  - Meeting for incoming kindergarten and 1st grade families to learn about immersion programming options
- Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Transition Committee: 1st week of March
  - MW school leadership team meeting January 29th to begin planning for committee



# Federal Government Updates

1. Immigration - Department of Education states that all children are entitled to public education, regardless of immigration status. Previously, “sensitive locations” such as schools, houses of worship and hospitals were exempt from raids conducted by Immigration and Customs enforcement, but these restrictions have been repealed. We are working with our legal team and will be sharing additional guidance with our staff tomorrow.

2. Federal Grant Funds -

The recent federal funding freeze could have an impact on Minnesota schools. Here's why:

- **Reduced Funding:** Minnesota receives billions of dollars annually in federal grants. A freeze would cut funding for programs crucial to schools, such as:
  - **Special Education:** Programs supporting students with disabilities rely heavily on federal funds.
  - **School Lunch Programs:** These programs provide essential nutrition for many students.
  - **Early Childhood Education:** Programs like Head Start receive significant federal support.
  - **Technology Integration:** Funding for technology in classrooms and digital learning initiatives could be disrupted.

**Important Note:** The full extent of the impact is still uncertain as the funding freeze is a developing situation.

The district will continue to closely monitor the situation and will adjust accordingly.

# Legislative Updates

- We held our Duluth School Board Work Session with legislators on January 17th
- We attended the AMSD 2025 Legislative Preview on January 10th
- We met on January 23rd to finalize and will be voting on our platform tonight
- We plan to participate in robust lobbying, including at the Duluth and St. Louis County Days

# Questions