

**St. Cloud Area School District 742 - (DRAFT 2) Resolution 2025-1
Adequate and Equitable Funding for Targeted Services and Extended Learning**

2025 Delegate Assembly

Proposed Legislative Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2025-1 - Adequate and Equitable Funding for Targeted Services and Extended Learning

SUBMITTED BY: St. Cloud Area School District 742

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently, ISD742 and districts statewide are operating State-Approved Alternative Programs (SAAPs) below capacity not by choice, but due to funding limitations that force difficult decisions about which students can be served. This rationing of educational opportunities is unacceptable and demands immediate legislative attention. The current funding model, which primarily relies on General Education Revenue, has not kept pace with the demand for these crucial services. This leaves districts with insufficient resources to provide the consistent, high-quality, and year-round programming necessary for student success. ISD742 urges immediate collective action to address this funding gap and strengthen the support systems for our most vulnerable students.

WHEREAS, the ISD742 School Board recognizes the critical role of extended learning programs, such as Targeted Services and summer programming, in ensuring all students achieve consistent learning outcomes;

WHEREAS, these programs provide supplemental instruction tailored to the needs of students in poverty and from historically disadvantaged communities, effectively bridging proficiency gaps through flexible time allocations;

WHEREAS, robust alternative programming helps retain at-risk students who might otherwise drop out or transfer, protecting districts' per-pupil funding and maintaining enrollment stability during challenging learning demographic shifts.

WHEREAS, while extended learning programs receive General Education Revenue and can generate up to 1.2 Average Daily Membership (ADM), this funding structure is often insufficient to fully address the diverse and extensive needs of students requiring extended learning and year-round support;

WHEREAS, Targeted Services programs for K-8 at-risk students would benefit from consistent funding formulas and program parameters, resulting in better access to services and with more cohesion and better opportunity to improve student outcomes across districts;

WHEREAS, lack of dedicated transportation funding creates significant equity barriers, with an increasing percentage of students unable to access SAAP services due to transportation challenges, undermining program effectiveness and state investment;

WHEREAS, delayed legislative action on SAAP funding will inevitably lead to program reductions that disproportionately impact the state's most vulnerable students; and

WHEREAS, these cuts will force districts to eliminate vital services that prevent costly interventions later in a student's academic career, placing a severe strain on limited district resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Cloud Area School District 742 Board of Education proposes the Minnesota School Boards Association:

- Advocate for increased and dedicated funding for SAAPs to support robust, year-round programming, including Targeted Services and summer programs, to better meet the needs of at-risk students and close the opportunity gap;
- Support legislative action to provide new funding sources for SAAP-related expenses, such as transportation, to ensure equitable access for all eligible students;
- Promote policies that ensure funding for SAAPs, particularly for extended learning, is sufficient to provide high-quality, comprehensive programs that are purposeful and address the social, emotional, and academic needs of the whole learner;
- Encourage the establishment of standards and clear implementation recommendations to guide Targeted Services programs, thereby ensuring consistent quality and effectiveness across all districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Minnesota Department of Education, and other pertinent stakeholders to encourage collaborative dialogue and prompt action on this important issue.

RECOMMENDATION:

The ISD742 School Board respectfully urges the expansion of funding and program flexibility for State-Approved Alternative Programs (SAAPs) to meet the growing need for extended learning opportunities, including Targeted Services and summer programming. Adequate and consistent funding is essential to effectively close opportunity gaps and ensure all students have the chance to graduate.