



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ADVOCATING FOR GREATER MINNESOTA SCHOOLS

- COVID-19 Relief
- School Readiness
- Funding Basic Education
- Special Education Funding
- Teacher Shortages
- Student Health & Safety
- School Facilities Funding Tools
- Career & College Readiness Flexibility

COVID-19 RELIEF

Ensuring students across
Minnesota have access to
quality teachers



KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

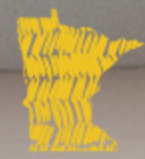
- Hold harmless school district ADM counts
 - From last school year to this school year
- Hold harmless Compensatory Revenue
 - From last school year to this school year



BASIC EDUCATION REVENUE

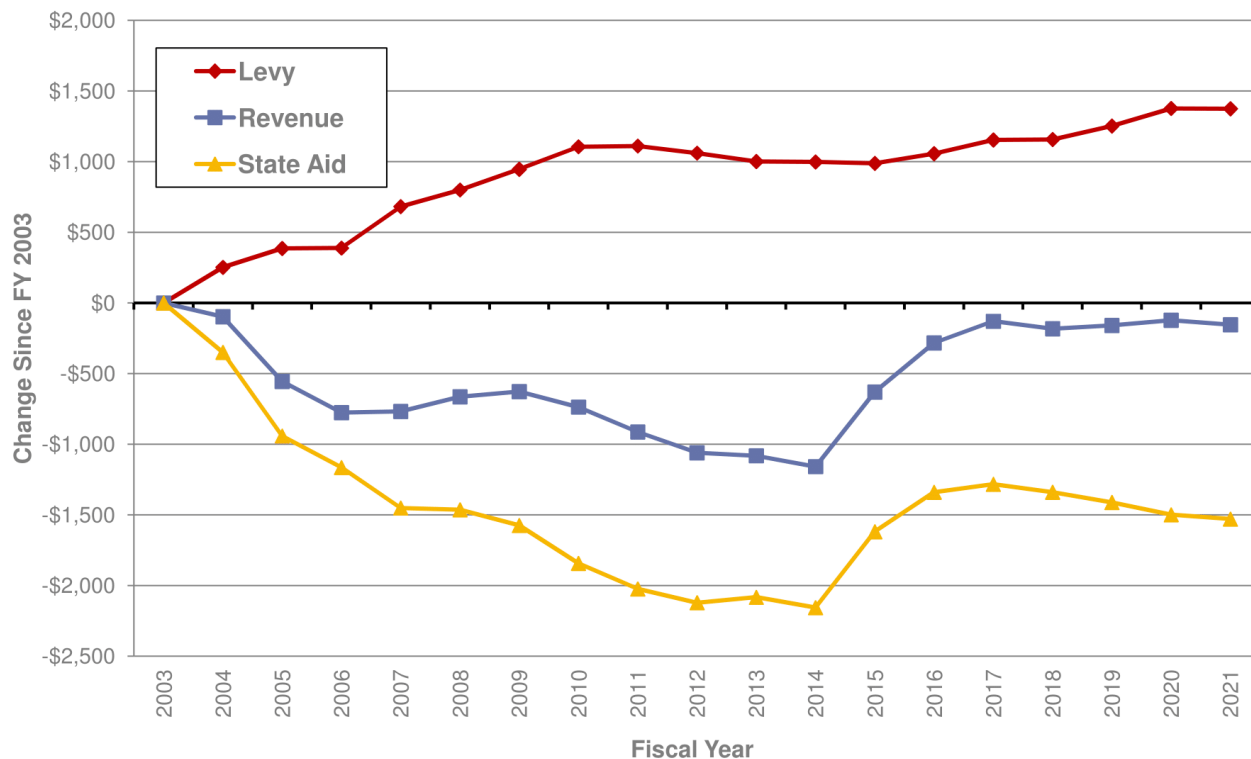
Schools lack necessary, predictable funding

- 2000 Plan promised to fund schools with basic formula
- Basic formula has not kept up with inflation
 - Underfunded by about \$658 per pupil
- Led school districts to rely heavily on local taxpayer support
- Disparity in general education revenue (5th to 95th ratio)
 - Increased from 18.6% in FY 2003 to 31% in FY 2013
 - Now trending to 23.9% in FY 2021



Statewide Aid, Levies, Revenue

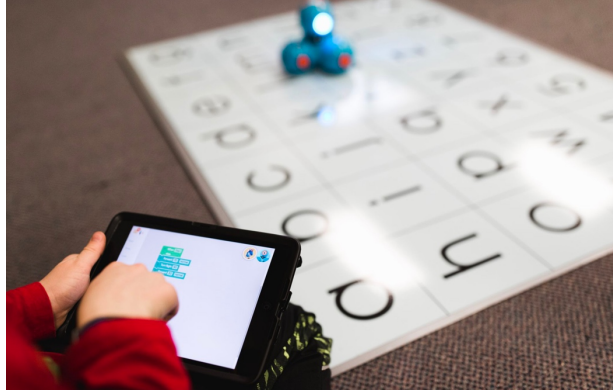
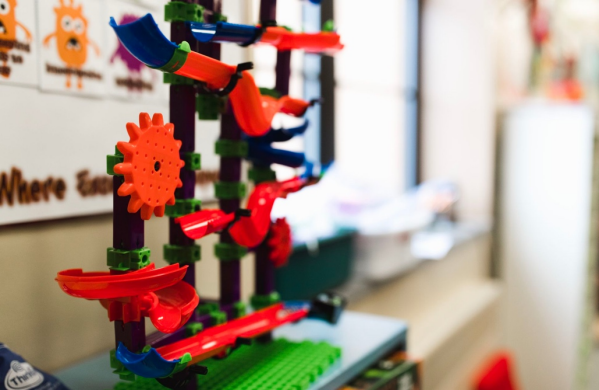
Constant FY 2020 Dollars Per Pupil



MDE data in constant 2020 dollars adjusted for inflation

mreavoice.org





BASIC EDUCATION REVENUE

Implementing recommended 80-20-10 Plan to support schools

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Redefine to include formula allowance and new “Local Education Revenue” (LER)
 - 80% formula allowance and 20% LER
 - Total LER allowance would be \$1,641
- LER replaces LOR and funded with local property taxes
 - Equalized to eliminate separate Tier 1 and 2 calculations
- Increased by forecasted inflation at 2% per year

TEACHER SHORTAGES

Ensuring students across
Minnesota have access
to quality teachers



KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Secure ongoing funding for student teaching stipends and loan forgiveness
- Expand **Grow Your Own Teacher** pilot programs for rural districts
- Support “**Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers**” legislative initiatives
- Allow short-call sub license eligibility to include AA degrees

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Tools to keep school facilities updated and equipped for learning

1

Protect Ag2School

Continue tax credit for timber and agriculture landowners

2

Cooperative Facilities

Same access lease levy for rural education cooperatives

3

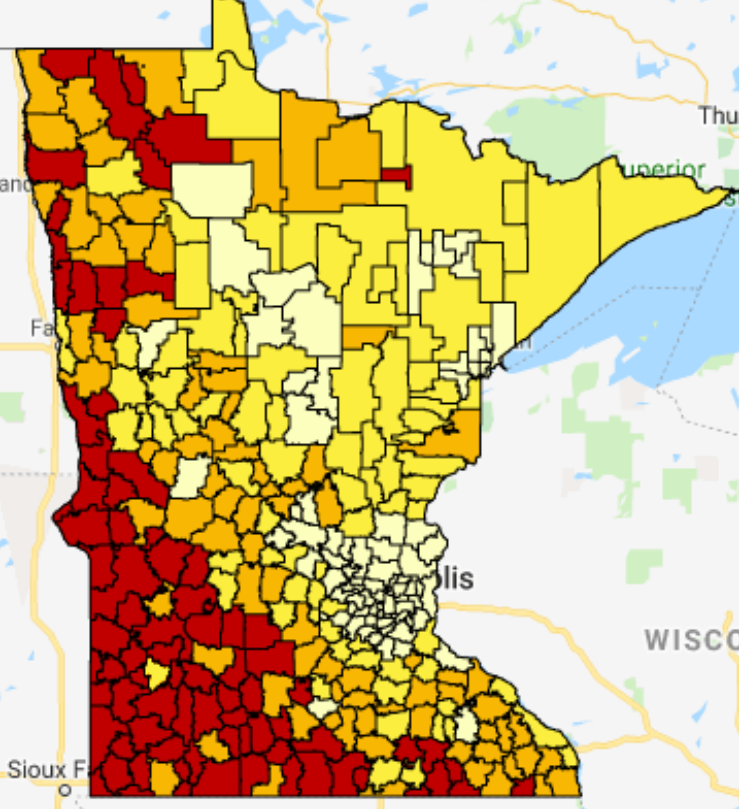
Enhanced Equalization

Add Debt Service Equalization for consolidated districts after 2021

4

Long-Term Maintenance

Improve Long-Term Facility Maintenance to support updates



AG2SCHOOL IMPACT

Protect tax credit and planned increases

Taxes Payable Year	Percent Increase	Total Ag2School Credit
2021	5%	55%
2022	5%	60%
2023	10%	70%

70%

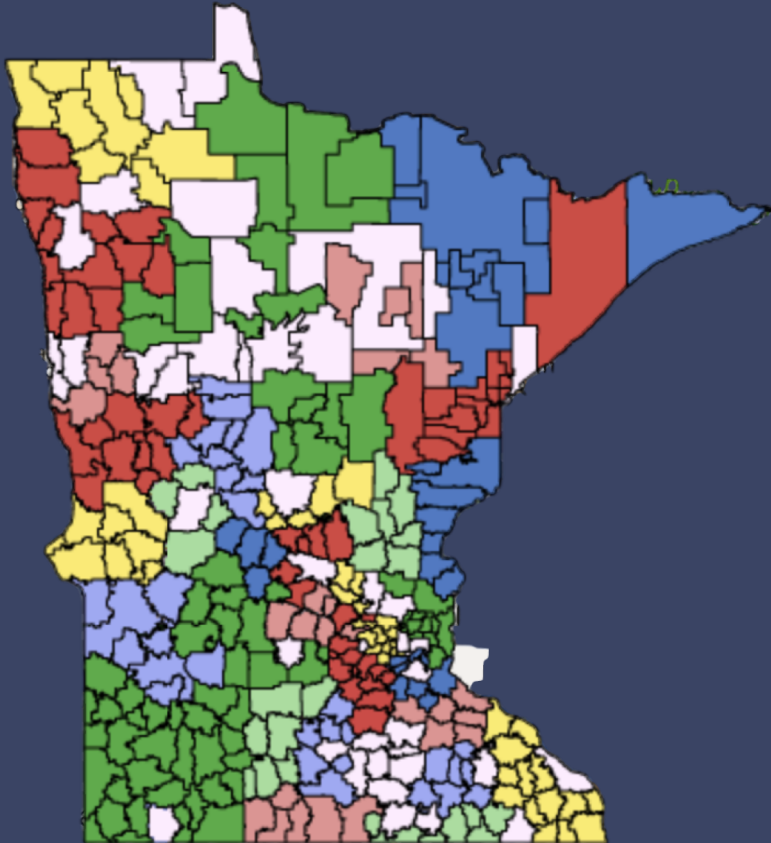
Scheduled Increase for Pay 2023

MREA

- XXX school districts currently benefit
- School districts in red have potential to see greatest impact
- At least 64% of property value is ag and timber land

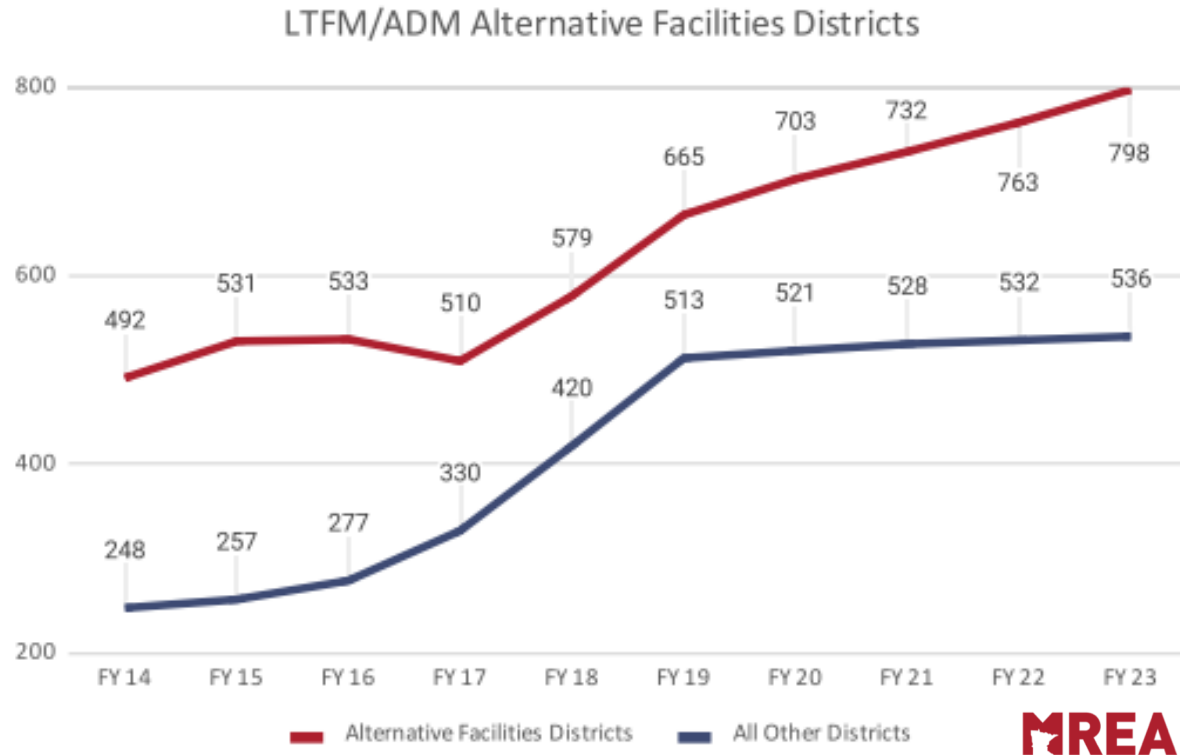
COOPERATIVE FACILITIES

Provide same lease levy access as metro



- Facing unprecedented growth in high-need students
- Lack appropriate spaces and financial tools to do it
- Need facilities similar to what's available for metro students

LONG-TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE



- Funding frozen at \$380 per pupil
- Gap to grow to \$262 in FY '23

LONG-TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- All school districts eligible based on approved 10-year facilities plan
 - Without statutory limit on amount raised without voter approval
 - Consistent with current practice for Alternative Facilities revenue
- or
- Adjust non-alternative facility districts aid and levy formula allowance for inflation
 - Specify non-alt facility districts shall receive no less than 80% of average for alt facility districts

JUMP START TO SCHOOL READINESS

Access to quality programs
for our earliest learners



MREA

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Consolidate Pathway II funds to streamline revenue and coordination
- Funding to provide all low-income 4-year-olds a minimum of 350 hours from from 3- and 4- star rated providers.
- Ensure a viable mixed delivery by requiring districts to reserve 40% for non-district 3- and 4-star rated providers
- School districts verify and reimburse non-district 3- and 4-star providers
- Release unused funds to districts June 30 for early learning programs

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Funding to support students with special needs

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Local cross subsidy grown to 12% of general formula
 - Projected to consume 15% of formula in next 10 years
- Advocate for increase in federal support for special education
- Increase state special education funding
 - Hold cross subsidy per student constant in FY 2022
 - Eliminate state portion in FY 2023 and later



CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS FLEXIBILITY



KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Oppose legislation requiring the third science credit to be obtained through an Earth Science
- Re-examine high school course and standards requirements to align with state workforce needs
 - Provide flexibility and more options for students
- Reinvest in vocational, technical education programs and skills



STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

Meeting student mental
health and safety needs



KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Double Safe Schools Levy program to \$72 per pupil with equalization for school districts
 - Establish \$30,000 minimum for small districts.
 - Cooperatives directly serving students levy up to \$15 per pupil
- Improve funding for school-linked mental health grants
- Restore funding for ongoing school-county collaboratives