

## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2017

### **General Education Formula**

Increase the general education formula and provide an ongoing adjustment to protect against the negative impacts of inflation. Additional funding is needed in order to properly address many needs, including an expansion of mental health programs, reducing class size and retaining investments in PLC's, PBIS and other efforts designed to reduce the achievement gap.

### **Special Education**

Full funding of special education services as identified in state statute. Eliminate the special education expenditure disparity with charter schools.

### **Election Enhancements**

Increase the filing fee for school board candidates to a level equal with other local election candidates in order to more adequately offset the costs of providing required documents. In addition, allow the Duluth school district an opportunity consistent with other Minnesota school districts to realize the cost reduction opportunity made possible by moving to even year elections.

### **Mandate Reform and Reduction**

Mandates that have negative, unintended consequences should be considered for repeal or revision. Included would be system-wide technology infrastructure investments that would result in enhanced efficiency, eliminating mandated newspaper publishing that could be more effectively done via websites and provide funding to implement staff evaluation systems.

### **School Based Early Education Programs**

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

The Duluth Public Schools serve the City of Duluth and certain outlying areas beyond the city limits. This area constitutes 328 square miles. The majority of the schools serving the district lie within the city limits. These schools are located within or near a ribbon of land two miles wide and seventeen miles long which follows the shoreline of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River.

The Duluth School System currently provides service to 8,800 students in the city of Duluth and outlying townships, including PreK and ECFE programs and education at the Area Learning Center and Secondary Vocational Programs.

Independent School District 709 is committed to ensure that all requirements in hiring, training, promotion, personnel management practices and collective bargaining agreements are structured and administered in a manner which furthers equal employment principles.