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Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

May 19, 2026



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

- 2026 Student Representative Reports
 - Osiris Garcia Henderson- ALC
 - Tamia Bowles - Denfeld
 - Kalina Mattila - East
- Budget Reduction Update
- Legislative Update
- Area Learning Center Update
- Other

Budget Update

General Fund Budget Reductions

As discussed, our plan for 2026-27 includes a total of \$4,296,067 in estimated reductions in the general fund budget.

Unfortunately, as with most districts in Minnesota, continued reductions will need to occur unless there is a change with the state funding formula. We should consider the possibility of a local operational referenda to assist in mitigating some of these reductions.

Legislative Update

Legislative Updates

For K12 education, the final budget agreement totaled \$31.7 million in one-time funding, spread across several budget areas and bills. The legislature also passed a small omnibus education policy bill.

Legislative Updates

Funding & Capital (\$31.7M Total)

Compensatory Revenue: Allocates \$11M over two years to cushion funding transitions; guarantees districts at **least** ~66% of FY26 site revenue.

- **Mental Health:** Appropriates \$12.25M for school-linked behavioral health and \$3.8M for youth crisis services.
- **Safety:** Provides \$4M for anonymous threat reporting systems, mandating district-wide implementation by July 2028.
- **Tax & Operations:** Allows operating capital to cover utilities; creates seasonal tax aid to cut voter-approved levies by up to 50% in resort/cabin areas.

Legislative Updates

Policy & Operations

- **Read Act:** Extends teacher training flexibilities (5.5-hour reduction); mandates annual screeners for struggling students in grades 4+; integrates libraries into literacy plans.
- **Pensions (TRA):** Requires employer contributions for reemployed retirees; lowers return-to-work agreement age to 59.5.
- **Student Safety & Governance:** Criminalizes grooming (triggering law enforcement notices to PELSB); requires broader polling place placement for multi-county special elections.

Legislative Updates

Major Ballot & Infrastructure Items

- **Constitutional Amendment:** Places a measure on the November ballot to reform Permanent School Fund distributions.
- **Infrastructure:** Allocates \$1M for the Safe Routes to Schools program via the bipartisan bonding bill.

Area Learning Center Update

Area Learning Center

We are continuing to work with MDE on addressing the concerns outlined in their desk review findings. We are close to finalizing an agreement with another area school district which is likely to allow us to continue to offer targeted services such as our K-8 summer programming. We will know more next week.

We are also ready to move forward with Alternative Learning Programming for the fall semester and are finalizing those plans as well.

Questions