

# Superintendent's Report

---

**Month:** June 2025

**Administrator:** Dedrick Martin

**Update:**

## **Retreat with Superintendents**

On July 29th, I will be hosting a retreat with the local superintendents designed to take a deep dive into math outcome data by district. This gathering aims to foster a shared, multi-year focus on math-related goals and eventually align our KRESA supports to these objectives. The retreat will also focus on:

- Sharing individual math data stories,
- Defining a unifying goal that reflects district priorities and enables coordinated RESA support, and
- Strengthening collaboration across leadership teams to ensure lasting, countywide impact.

My goal is that this retreat is the start towards greater opportunities for collaborative planning and the establishment of actionable strategies to enhance math education outcomes across the region.

## **Budget Discussions Heating Up**

On the evening of June 11<sup>th</sup>, the House Fiscal Agency provided an analysis of the proposed House FY 26 School Aid Budget. This house budget proposal has come out very late in the game and will make the likelihood of our state passing an education budget before the end of our fiscal year extremely unlikely. The budget that was proposed by the house along party lines is a massive departure from previous budgets in a number of ways. Given the lateness of this budget and the time of this communication, we have not had enough time to do a detailed review. I was able to attend a statewide zoom meeting regarding a number of concerns expressed by several educational organizations shortly before the house proposal was passed.

While the proposal does increase the Foundation Allowance by \$417 to a base of \$10,025; the devil is in the details on how they plan to achieve the increased student funding. Some quick high-level items of note during our initial glance:

- Provides an additional \$1,975 per pupil to a total of \$12,000. To reach this level of funding, they are rolling up numerous categorical line items and eliminating those specific projects and initiatives. (See examples below)
- Shifts an additional \$1 billion School Aid Fund resources to Higher Education (eroding the School Aid rainy day funds).
- Eliminates the MPSERS Rate Reduction provisions built into this year's budget and increases the rate back to 20.96%.
- At-Risk funding remains flat and eliminating needed some vital will create fiscal problems for some small and rural districts with some critical categorical eliminations.

Some of the items that we know are rolled up in the funding to create the additional revenue:

- Universal meals
- 31aa (mental health & safety)
- Early childhood block grants
- Early literacy teachers and added instruction time
- Rural transportation funding
- Adult education
- State and benchmark assessments
- Career and tech ed payments
- CTE early college/dual enrollment
- Special ed ISD millage equalization and special ed millage incentive
- State and benchmark assessments and
- Grow Your Own funds, just to name a few.

While eliminating categorical funding can raise the per pupil amount to \$12,000, it sweeps money from programs designed to help specific populations in larger districts with higher needs, as well as small and rural districts. This approach redistributes money to all schools, including charters and private schools, like a reverse Robin Hood approach. Essentially making the charters and private schools the largest potential winners.

I hope to have more clarity on parts of this proposal by the BOE meeting. The good thing is this is not the final budget, it's more of a very late start for the conversation between the House, Senate and the Governor's office on the final budget.

**State Budget Discussion**

I have been invited by State Representative Matt Longjohn to the upcoming townhall discussion on the impact of the budget proposals on KRESA and schools. This townhall community conversation will be held on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Portage Zhang Senior Center. I have also included Scott Thomas and Mindy Miller to attend with me so that we can provide a more complete view from the perspective of fiscal and programmatic impacts on schools.