

# STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Some key facts about our families, fairness and funding to provide context for challenges we face.



## Families

Our enrollment is growing and we are proud to be rich in diversity at our schools. However, as the highest poverty community in Dakota County, our families have increasing needs.

## Funding

Most of our funding comes from the state. While we are growing in both student numbers and student needs, the state of Minnesota is not keeping up its end of the bargain.

## Fairness

The state property tax penalizes our community for having more residential property than commercial property.

## How You Can Help

Contact your legislators and help share our story.



**More information is available on our website at [www.sspps.org/stateofthedistrict](http://www.sspps.org/stateofthedistrict).**

A video presentation is also available online where Superintendent Webb explains more in depth about the State of the District.

### Questions or comments?

Please email us at [sspdirect@sspps.org](mailto:sspdirect@sspps.org).

# HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

**CONTACT OUR LEGISLATORS** and tell them with an equalized tax code, we can bring relief for our taxpayers and funding support for our schools. For convenience, we have drafted the email you can use when contacting the legislators listed on this card.

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Contact Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith at <https://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>

## E-12 EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**Rep. Jenifer Loon**  
rep.jenifer.loon@house.mn

**Rep. Sondra Erickson**  
rep.sondra.erickson@house.mn

**Rep. Peggy Bennett**  
rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn

**Rep. Ron Kresha**  
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## TAXES CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**Rep. Greg Davids**  
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**Rep. Steve Drazkowski**  
rep.steve.drazkowski@house.mn

**Rep. Joe McDonald**  
rep.joe.mcdonald@house.mn

**Rep. Jerry Hertaus**  
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**Rep. Mary Murphy**  
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**Sen. Carla Nelson**  
sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn

**Sen. Eric Pratt**  
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**Rep. Paul Marquart**  
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**Sen. Gary Dahms**  
sen.gary.dahms@senate.mn

**Sen. Jeremy Miller**  
sen.jeremy.miller@senate.mn

## MN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Commissioner Brenda Cassellius  
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**Sen. Justin Eichorn**  
sen.justin.eichorn@senate.mn

**Sen. Bill Weber**  
sen.bill.weber@senate.mn

**Sen. Chuck Wiger**  
sen.chuck.wiger@senate.mn

**Sen. David Senjem**  
sen.david.senjem@senate.mn

**Sen. Ann Rest**  
sen.ann.rest@senate.mn

**Sen. Roger Chamberlain**  
sen.roger.chamberlain@senate.mn

## SUBJECT LINE FOR EMAIL:

Schools need adequate funding and referendum equalization

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

State funding for K-12 public schools has not kept pace with rising costs, additional mandates, and annual inflation. In addition, given the critical role property tax levies play in funding our schools, it is imperative that state policymakers take action to level the playing field for schools, students and taxpayers.

South St. Paul has the lowest per-student voter-approved funding in our area. This problem is compounded by the fact that an unfair state property tax system results in our residents paying more in school taxes for the same amount of funding.

Please provide adequate funding for education and increase referendum equalization funding for schools.

Sincerely,

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