

EXCELLENCE IS OUR STANDARD

Robbinsdale Area Schools is committed to ensuring every student graduates career, articulated skilled trades and college ready. To support academic achievement and create a world-class workforce, we urge the Governor and Legislators to address the following critical issues:

Establish Governmental Parity

Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same funding level.

Data show that over the past six years 100% of referendum renewals were approved by voters. Annual audits are performed each year to ensure school districts are run efficiently. With the Robbinsdale election cycle tied to midterm elections, money spent on renewing a referendum would be saved and put back into the classroom.

Increase Flexibility for School Districts

Expand the allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue to allow school districts to enhance safety through security modifications to buildings, including remodeling and additions to existing space.

Increase the maximum Safe Schools Levy and/or make the one-time state aid permanent to offset the growing costs of school communication technology, to address the need for mental health support for students, and expand the permitted uses allowing school districts to enhance cyber security.

Reduce mandated paperwork requirements for Special Education students. Reducing paperwork requirements allow staff to spend more time with students.

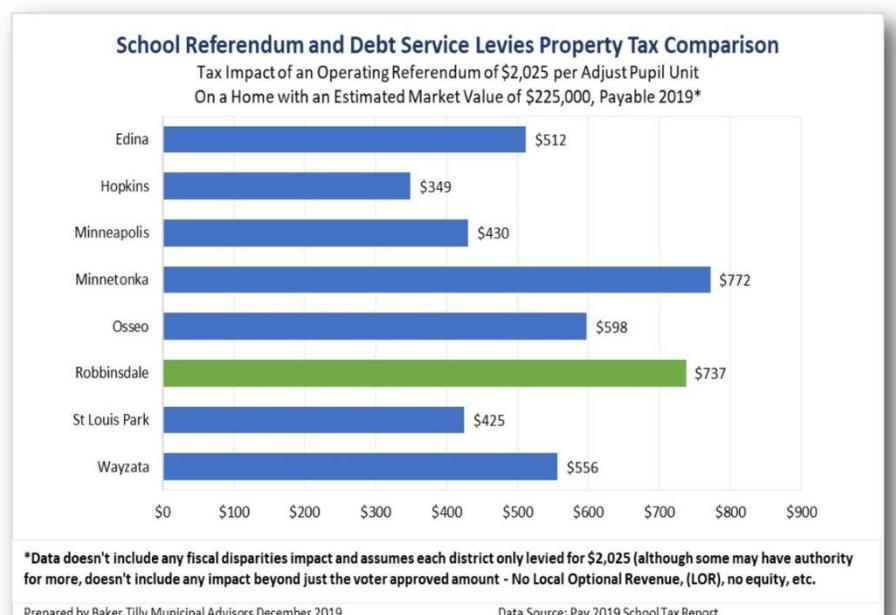
Enhance Educator Workforce

Support policies that increase diversity in the educator workforce to reflect diverse student populations. Maintain the tiered licensing system to ensure multiple pathways for licensure.

Institute Taxpayer Equity

Increase equalization for operating referendums and debt service to provide greater equity in education funding. Property tax levies play a crucial role in funding education programs and facilities. Depending on the property tax wealth in your school district, taxpayers may pay more to raise the same amount of referendum and debt service levies. For example, taxes on a home valued at \$200,000 cost homeowners in Robbinsdale Area Schools more than twice what homeowners in the Hopkins School District pay. (See comparison Chart A to the Right)

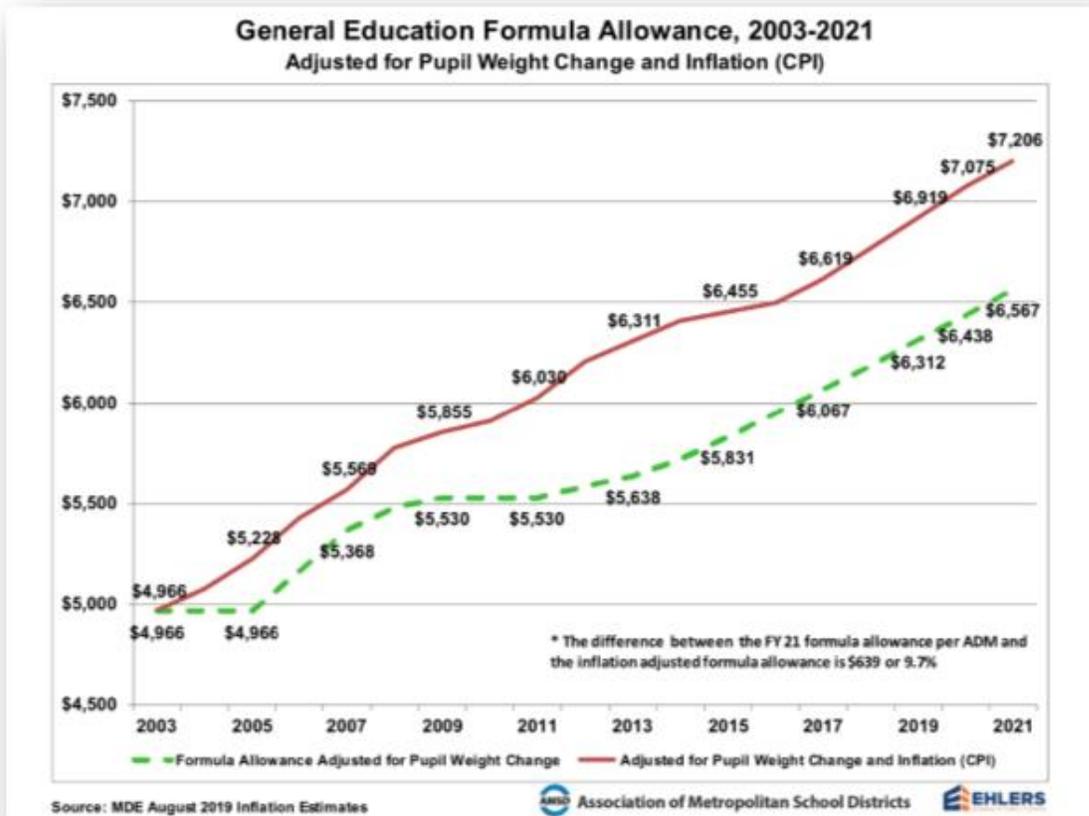
CHART A



Reminder: Stabilize Funding

Fix education funding and link the formula to inflation. While we recognize this is not a funding year, we want to remind you that the basic education formula is the district’s primary source of operating funds and accounts for 48.8% of Robbinsdale Area Schools’ general fund revenue. Increases in the basic education formula have not kept up with inflation. In fact, the basic education formula would be \$7,206 per pupil or 9.7% higher if it had kept up with inflation since 2003. Adequate, reliable and predictable funding is essential to provide programs that ensure every student graduates career, articulated skilled trades and college ready. (Please reference Chart B below)

CHART B



Questions or additional information contact
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Approved by School Board on 12.16.19