

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2021

Addressing funding shortfalls and inequity in Minnesota's schools

Minnesota students continue to suffer among the largest achievement gaps between white students and students of color in the nation. The state must provide adequate funding, especially for critical services including special education and English learner education, and take proactive steps to create more equitable schools, including increasing the number of teachers of color. On behalf of the students, educators, families and community members of Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, the District 191 Legislative Committee asks the Minnesota State Legislature to take the actions described in this platform during the 2021 budget-setting session.

Increase per pupil funding by 2% per year

**Reduce the cross subsidy for
special education and English learning**

**Provide targeted funding to increase
diversity among teachers**

**Provide a legislative exemption to allow
local control of property sale proceeds**



District 191 Legislative Platform

1 Increase basic education funding by 2% per year

The general education formula is the biggest source of revenue for Minnesota school districts. District 191 receives more 71 percent of its funding from the state of Minnesota, so lagging state aid has a great effect on the district's overall budget. Since 2003, state aid has fallen behind inflation by nearly \$600 per pupil, according to Department of Education estimates. If it had kept up with inflation, District 191 would receive an additional \$5 million in state aid for the current school year.

2 Reduce the cross subsidy for special education, English learning

Without an increase in special education and English learner funding, school districts continue to face funding shortfalls in these programs, which causes school districts to redirect general education funding. These services are essential for supporting the individual needs of students and are mandated by law. But in 2018-19, for instance, District 191 received about \$12.8 million less in funding than was spent to provide those services. Those costs were covered by the district's general fund — the cross subsidy — meaning less money for general education staff, programming and services.

3 Provide targeted funding to increase diversity among teachers

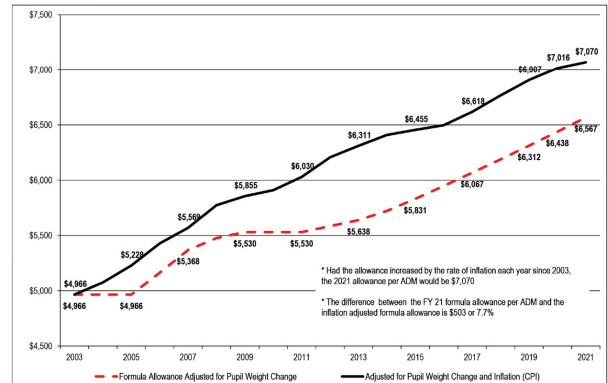
In District 191 and across Minnesota, only about 4% of teachers are people of color. Studies show that all students do better when they are taught by a diverse teaching staff, and the lack of representation especially harms students of color. District 191 is committed to building a teacher workforce that reflects the diversity of its students as an essential part of closing the achievement gap.

4 Provide a legislative exemption for District 191 property sale

District 191 is planning to sell one or more properties and is seeking a legislative exemption that would allow proceeds of the sale to be transferred to the district's general fund.



General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2021
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



ABOUT DISTRICT 191

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 is a future-forward school district creating barrier-free pathways for learning for everyone in our community.

We believe learning is a lifelong pursuit, and create programs, services and opportunities that inspire this belief.

Each Student.

Future Ready.

Community Strong.

one91
Burnsville • Eagan • Savage

200 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville, MN 55337
952-707-2000 • www.isd191.org