

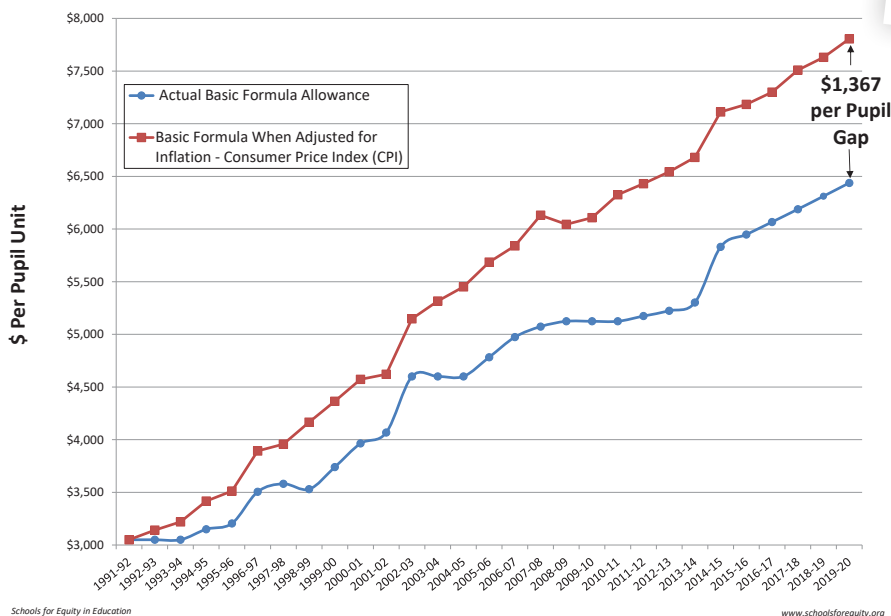


2020 District 834 Legislative Platform

Approved by the School Board on October 24, 2019

1. Increase the basic general education funding formula

- For the past 17 years, the average general education formula increase has not kept pace with rising costs (see chart below).
- Stillwater relies on state funding for approximately 68% of its general fund revenue.
- We are below the cap for our operating levy and do not have a capital projects levy for technology, which means our schools have fewer local resources available to students than many other school districts.
- Our existing operating levy will need to be renewed or replaced by voters by November 2021 or we'll lose approximately \$12 million in annual funding.



3. Increase funding to support mental health initiatives and increase the physical safety/security of our schools

- Additional staff members, as well as additional training for existing staff, are needed to address the increasingly complex mental health needs of our students.
- Community partners and numerous grants help provide our schools with additional mental health supports, but these initiatives are not sustainable nor do they meet all of our needs.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, we submitted \$1.325 million in grant requests to the Minnesota Department of Education to address building security concerns across the district - these grant requests were unfunded.

2. Further increase the state's share of special education funding and reduce paperwork for special educators



- Special education costs for the district have increased by 70% from 2012 to 2019.
- Special education funding from the state and federal sources cover only about 67% of the total special education costs in Stillwater.
- Paperwork burdens special educators, giving them less time to teach students and contributing to burn-out and a shortage of qualified special education teachers.



Thank You For Your Continued Support!



2019-2020 School Board

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Who We Are:

The Stillwater Area Public School District serves about 8,400 students from 18 unique communities along the St. Croix River – from Marine to Afton and a portion of Woodbury. Our boundaries stretch 30 miles and cover approximately 150 square miles.

2019 Legislative Impact

As a result of the 2019 legislative session our district received approximately \$2 million in new funding for fiscal year 2020. Every dollar is being invested to support the operations of our school district. Thank you for supporting our students.

Here's a quick breakdown of what the \$2 million in funding for fiscal year 2020 means for Stillwater Area Public Schools:

- **General Education Formula Increase:** This increase helped, but didn't fully match the rising costs of insurance, transportation, technology, new initiatives, and pending negotiated salaries for all employee groups.

To balance our budget (revenues and expenditures) while maintaining an unassigned fund balance of 5%, our school board felt obligated to approve \$2.095 million in budget reductions for the current school year.

- **Special Education (cross-subsidy) Aid:** The increased special education aid approved in 2019 will provide an estimated \$800,00 for our district. This helps offset the growing costs of special education. However, even with this increase, millions of dollars from our general fund go toward the cross-subsidy, the unreimbursed cost of required special education by the state or federal governments.
- **Safe Schools Supplemental Aid:** Our district received \$289,708 in one-time safe schools supplemental aid.

More information is available upon request or at stillwaterschools.org