

**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 to save funds spent on expensive elections.** Data show that over the past seven years 100% of referendum renewals were approved by voters.

**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 state aid** to support the ongoing behavioral and mental health needs of our students due to COVID-19 and expand the permitted uses to offset the growing costs of cyber security and school communication technology.
- **Support initiatives that begin to address food insecurity for all Minnesotans, especially those in school.** Students who are hungry and worried about their next meal are not ready to learn.
- **Oppose any new unfunded mandates.** Unfunded state mandates add additional costs to an already stressed budget.

**Enhance Educator Workforce**

- **Support policies that attract, develop and retain a diverse educator workforce** to reflect diverse student populations. Maintain the tiered licensing system to ensure multiple pathways for licensure.

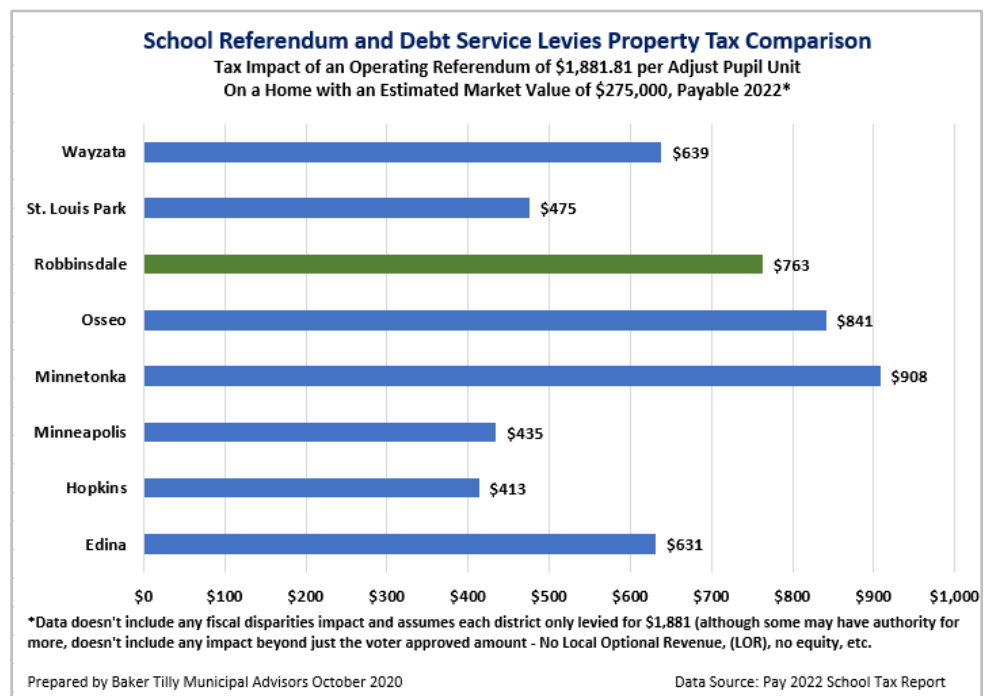
**Institute Taxpayer Equity**

- **Increase equalization for operating referendums and debt service to reduce tax and education funding disparities.**

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 \$275,000 cost homeowners in Robbinsdale Area Schools almost more than twice what homeowners in the Hopkins School District pay.

(Please reference Chart A)

**CHART A**

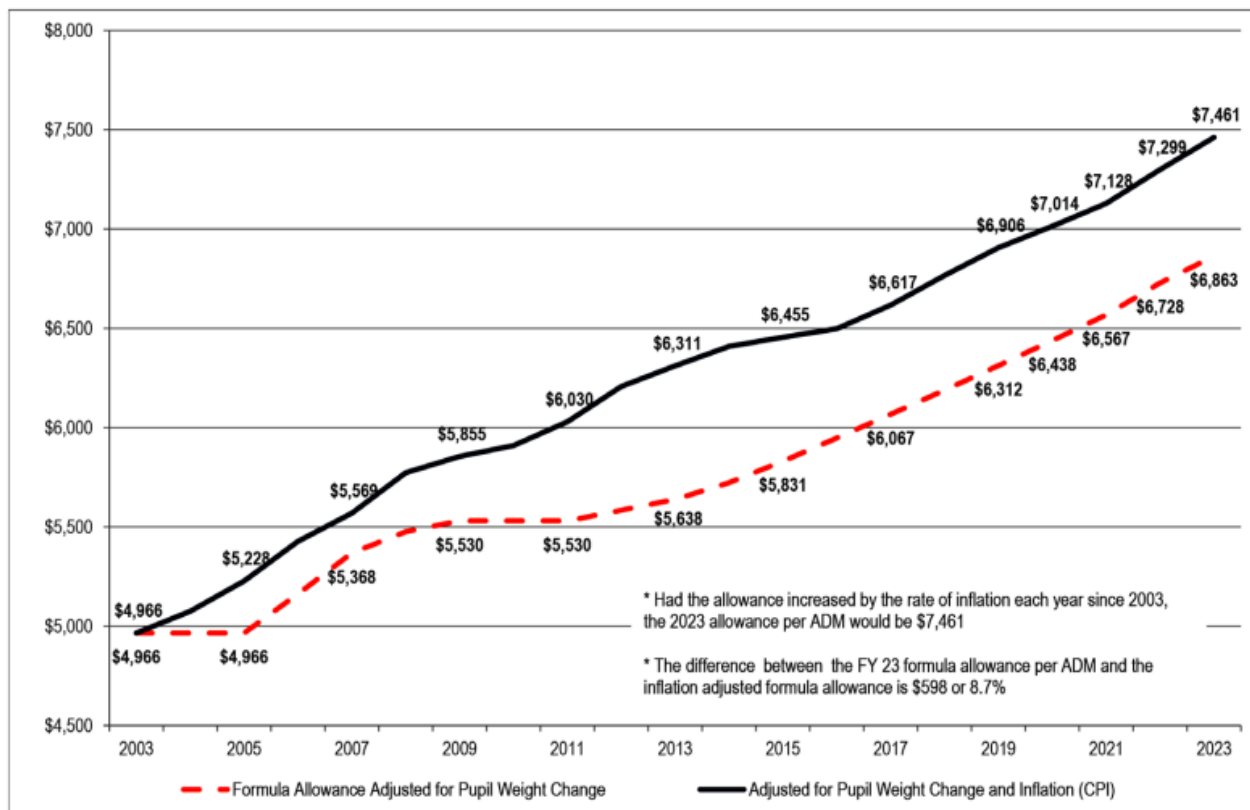


## Reminder: Stabilize Funding

- **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 46.8% 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 \$7,461 per pupil or 8.7% 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

### General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2023 Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE Inflation Estimates, July 2021



Association of Metropolitan School Districts



- **Increase special education and English learner funding** to reduce cross subsidies and ensure expenses are covered. Cross subsidies for the 2021-2022 are budgeted at \$14.1 million for special education and \$1.7 million for English learning.

For questions or additional information please contact:

Anthony Williams at [anthony\\_williams@rdale.org](mailto:anthony_williams@rdale.org) | 763-504-8013

School Board Approval on 12.06.2021