

## Board approves 2019-20 budget recommendations, adds counselors, special education teachers and student support

*Thursday, March 26, 2019* — At its meeting on March 25, the South St. Paul (SSP) School Board approved administration's recommendations for redesigning the 2019-20 budget to better meet the academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs of SSP students. Included in the recommendation were the addition of three more school counselors, an additional cultural liaison at the Secondary, additional special education teachers for autism, behavioral education and work experience programs, and a redesign of the district's intervention services program through a framework called [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#) (MTSS).

"We are excited about this budget and the ability to begin redesigning how we do school to better meet the needs of each and every learner in South St. Paul," said Superintendent Dave Webb. "We know that we have to do more to personalize learning, and we know that we need to provide more social-emotional and behavior support in our schools to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for everyone. By personalizing learning, advancing the MTSS framework, and strengthening our focus on a quality IB education for all kids, we are better able to prepare each student for their next step."

### Approved 2019-20 Budget Adjustments:

- **PERSONALIZE LEARNING**
  - *Address growing special education needs with 3 additional positions:*
    - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) teacher at Kaposia
    - Behavioral Education teacher at Secondary
    - Work-Based Special Education teacher at Secondary
  - *Address growing student and family needs with 1 additional staff:*
    - Cultural Liaison at Secondary
- **ADVANCE MTSS FRAMEWORK**
  - *Provide more social-emotional, mental health and student behavior support with 4 additional positions:*
    - School Counselors at Kaposia, Lincoln Center and Secondary
    - Student Support Assistant at Secondary
  - *Redesign intervention services to help advance MTSS framework with 3 new positions focused on coaching teachers and staff in social-emotional and academic improvement strategies:*
    - MTSS Specialists at Kaposia, Lincoln Center and Secondary
- **ENHANCE IB LEARNER EXPERIENCE**

- *Redesign Elementary Specialist rotation to include a new offering in addition to art, music, physical education and Spanish:*
  - Media Technology teachers at Kaposia and Lincoln Center
- *Redesign Instrumental Music Program to provide more on-ramps for students to participate and provide more core content instruction in 5th grade*
  - Move introductory band program from 5th grade to Secondary

With the approval of the budget adjustments, administration will now move ahead with more detailed planning for 2019-20, including staffing and an overall budget plan, the latter of which will be approved by the Board in June per state statute.