

3.8.24 - ACTION ALERT

MPS Parent Legislative Action Committee,

Governor Walz and legislative leaders got some good news last week. The state's budget surplus grew by \$1.3 billion and now is projected to be \$3.7 billion. Because some of that amount is needed to cover a projected deficit in future fiscal years, the governor and legislature have \$2.2 billion available if they choose to spend it. And I would like to ask you to encourage them to do just that.

What to ask for

Please call your State Representative and State Senator and ask them to dedicate **ongoing funding** to Minnesota public schools as part of their supplemental budget recommendations. Unlike one-time funding, ongoing funding can be used to hire or maintain staff and pay for costs that reoccur.

As part of last year's budget bill, they increased the general education funding formula by 2% for next school year. Please ask them to add an additional 2% to the general education formula.

Need help finding your legislators' email and phone numbers? You can look them up by entering your home address here - <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

I can tell you that your voices matter. Last year, I had several Minneapolis legislators tell me their phones were ringing off the hook. Your voices helped get significant increases in funding to cover a portion of the shortfalls in special education and English Learner funding.

Please take a few minutes to call or email your State Senator and State Representative.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of MPS students, families and staff.

Josh Downham
Lobbyist, Minneapolis Public Schools