



LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

\$1,600

The additional per pupil revenue schools would be receiving had increases kept pace with inflation.

Source: Schools for Equity in Education

THE ISSUE: Basic Formula Allowance increases have been irregular, unpredictable, and have not kept pace with rising costs, unfunded mandates, and growing expectations.

THE IMPACT:

- Like all chartered public schools, LILA relies solely on general education revenue for staff salaries, curriculum resources, and other operational needs while district public schools have the ability to levy taxpayers by board and voter approval to secure additional operating revenue.
- Funds that should be allocated to teaching and learning are redirected elsewhere. There are on-going and increasing demands on the general education budget to fill building lease aid, facility maintenance, Special Education, safety and security, and other funding gaps.
- The growing demands on the general education budget, coupled with unpredictable basic formula increases and lack of levy revenue, impacts our ability to offer a competitive wage. New applicants routinely reject offers, and seasoned professionals are regularly recruited to higher paying positions at district schools.

THE SOLUTION: Increase the basic formula and index it to the rate of inflation to keep pace with rising costs.

Statutory Reference: Statute 126C.10

THE ISSUE: Chartered public schools do not receive equal Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue.

THE IMPACT:

- General education revenue is used for facility capital improvements, reducing the availability of funds that should be allocated to teaching and learning.
- Repairs and improvements are deferred resulting in higher costs in the future – e.g. patching a parking lot vs. repaving; not replacing older HVAC with more energy efficient systems.

THE SOLUTION: Equalize Long-Term Maintenance Revenue to match the per pupil funding amount that district public schools receive.

Statutory Reference: MN Statute 123B.595

PER PUPIL

Charter Schools
\$132
District Schools
\$380

PER PUPIL

Charter Schools
\$13.18
District Schools
\$1,023

THE ISSUE: Chartered public schools receive unequal Extended Time Revenue. District public schools receive up to .2 additional per pupil general revenue. Charter schools, by law, can only receive 25% of the state average of extended time revenue generated by district schools.

THE IMPACT:

- Students in need of learning recovery do not have access to the same comprehensive extended day and summer programming as district school students.
- Staff recruitment for summer programming is challenging due to higher paying positions at district schools.

THE SOLUTION: Equalize Extended Time Revenue to match the funding amount that district public schools receive.

Statutory References: MN Statutes 126C.10 & 124E.20

All students deserve a fair and equitable education no matter where they live or go to school.

THE ISSUE: Chartered public schools do not receive Safe Schools Revenue.

THE IMPACT:

- Safety and security needs are delayed or triaged to fit the available budget.
- General education funds that should be allocated to teaching and learning are redirected to safety and security enhancements, staff training, school counselors, prevention programs, and mental health supports.

THE SOLUTION: Equalize Safe Schools Revenue to match the funding amount that district public schools receive.

Statutory References: MN Statutes 126C.44 & 124E.09

PER PUPIL

Charter Schools
\$0

District Schools
\$36



THE ISSUE: Chartered public schools receive 90% of the lease cost or \$1,314 per pupil unit, whichever is less. The lease aid formula has been static for over 10 years, while the cost of leasing an adequate facility continues to rise.

THE IMPACT:

- General education funds that should be allocated to teaching and learning are used to cover the 10+% gap.

THE SOLUTION: Increase Lease Aid. Pay 100% of the lease or \$1,314 per pupil unit, whichever is lesser, and tie increases in Lease Aid to increases in the Basic Formula Allowance.

Statutory References: MN Statutes 124E.26, 124E.22 & 124E.13

