

Legislative Study Session
Meeting Agenda
2/2/26

1. Introductions

Guests:

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Representative Michael Howard
Mayor Mary Supple
City Manager Katie Rodriguez

2. Purpose of Meeting

3. Presentation of RPS Legislative Platform

4. Additional Considerations Based on Current Situation in Minnesota

4. Information from Legislators

5. Q&A

Richfield Public Schools 2026 Legislative Platform

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF REQUIREMENTS

- Provide permanent funding for future compensatory revenue left in jeopardy due to universal free meals.^{1,2,3}
- Protect the state ADSIS funding system to provide support for students struggling academically.²

DIVERSIFY STAFF WORKFORCE AND PROMOTE EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

- Enact protections for immigrant and refugee families in MN.
- Ensure that districts can maintain student and staff data privacy.

REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

- Protect school districts' ability to support all students, particularly those who could be negatively impacted by new federal policies.
- Allow districts to choose which standardized tests to complete at the high school level.^{1,2}
- Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students.
- Protect districts' ability to choose their own insurance plans.

IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY

- Increase restrictions and close loopholes related to the presence and/or storage of guns on school grounds.¹

¹ Aligned to the AMSD Legislative Platform

² Aligned to the MSBA Legislative Platform

³ Aligned to the MASA Legislative Platform

Enriching and accelerating learning

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RICHFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Study Session

2/2/26

Enriqueciendo y acelerando el aprendizaje

Introductions

Guests:

- Senator Melissa Wiklund
- Representative Michael Howard
- Mayor Mary Supple
- City Manager Katie Rodriguez

Purpose & Agenda

Purpose of the meeting: To collaboratively engage school board members and elected officials related to legislative priorities for 2026.

Agenda for meeting:

- Presentation of the RPS Legislative Platform
- Additional Considerations Based on Current Situation in Minnesota
- Information from Legislators
- Q&A

2026 Legislative Platform

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Legislative Platform - Background Information



CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF REQUIREMENTS

Compensatory Education hold harmless:

- During COVID, free/reduced eligibility dropped 9% in RPS due to universal free meals, resulting in about a \$1 million reduction in annual compensatory funding. This flipped back in the 22-23 year with the return to the previous meal model.
- In 23-24, with universal free meals, there was a 5% drop in free/reduced eligibility, with funding temporarily held harmless.
- In 24-25, there was a further 4.2% drop in eligibility, which will bring a projected \$1.4 million decrease in compensatory funding compared to the 22-23 year.

What Comp Ed funds pay for:

- Classroom teacher (reduced class sizes), school counselors, amity aides, paraprofessionals

Protect ADSIS funding:

RPS receives about \$1.2 million in ADSIS funding, mostly for reading and math intervention teachers, each year. This funding is currently being considered for reduction by the Blue Ribbon panel on MN special education funding.

ADSI funded positions: 11.3 FTE

- Elementary: 5.5 FTE Reading and Math Intervention
- Middle School: 2.44 FTE Math & Reading Intervention (0.72 FTE Math Intervention, 1.72 FTE Reading Intervention)
- High School: 3.36 FTE Reading/Math/Social-emotional (1.0 FTE Reading Intervention, 0.36 FTE Math Intervention, 2.0 FTE Social-emotional)
- \$25,000 for materials

Protect districts' ability to choose their own insurance plans.

Local control

- Plan design and benefit options - PEIP plans have lower actuarial valuations than Richfield plans
- Employee/employer contribution requirements (Benefit expenditures in relation to salary)
- Fiscal accountability - reduced ability to control costs of District budget
- Richfield Insurance Advisory Committee has not recommended the PEIP plans despite HITA bids

Fiscal accountability

- Committee control and structure
- Cost of plan unknown - no studies we are aware of
- Surcharge for set-up

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REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

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Legislative Platform - Additional Items

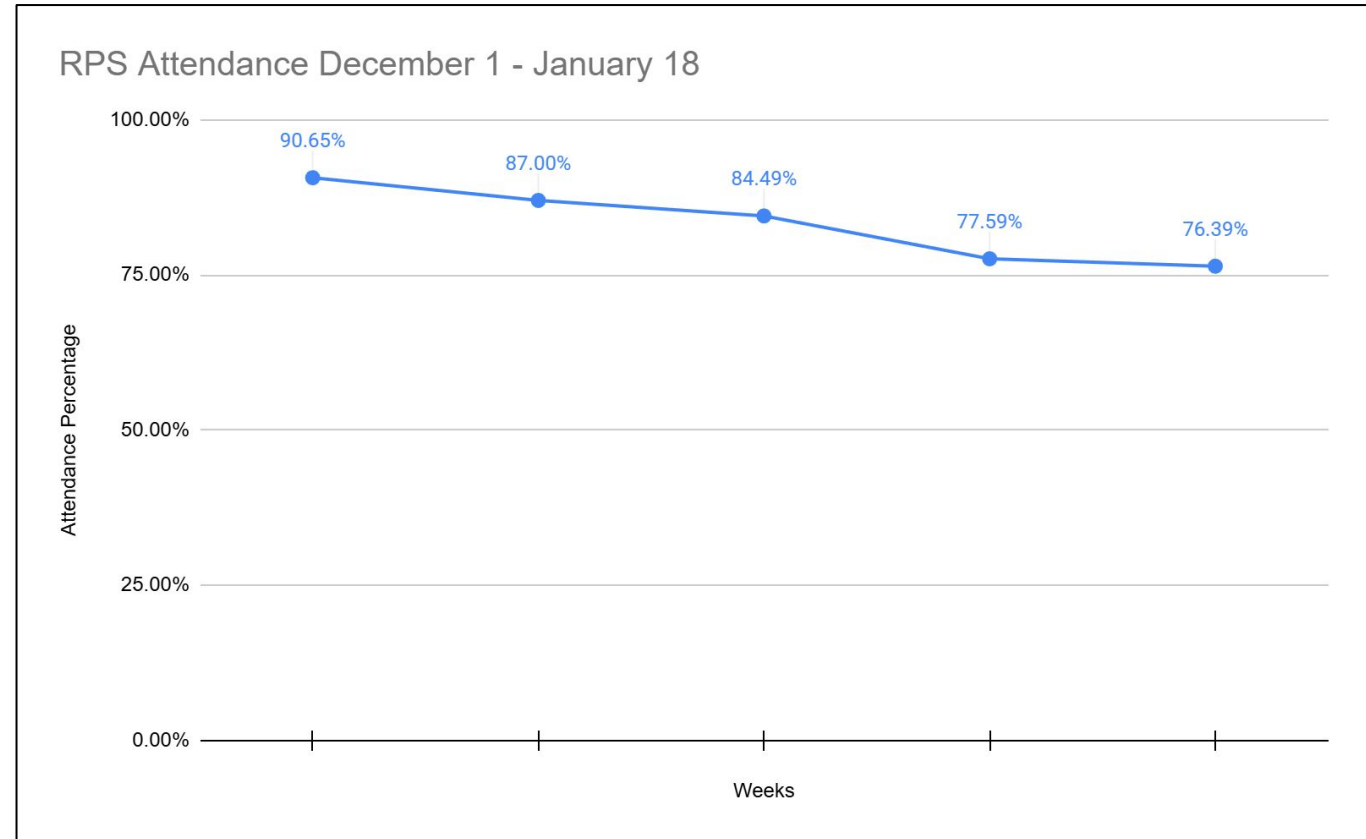


How RPS has been affected by the ICE presence in MN:

- Typical attendance is 91-94%
- About 800 students districtwide signed up for temporary online learning program
- Reduction in meals served: About 560 fewer lunches served each day
- Reduction in enrollment (so far): 14 students down since December 1
- Learning loss for online students

Additional items to consider:

- Long-term meal funding
- Long-term enrollment reduction mitigation
- Additional funds to support anticipated learning loss



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**Information from
Legislators**

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Q&A

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