

(Insert date)

Dear *(insert name of elected official)*:

I am writing as a member of the Columbia Heights School Community to urge you to protect and strengthen compensatory revenue funding in our state.

Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD# 13 is projecting a reduction to Compensatory Aid between \$3.6 million and \$4.9 million. This equates to the elimination of 35 to 45 teacher positions at a school district of 3,300 students. This is a catastrophic loss of Compensatory funding is one of Minnesota's most important tools for addressing educational inequities. The students of CHPS require critical support for as they face the greatest barriers to academic success, including living in poverty, English learning, needing additional academic or social-emotional support. This funding is critical for the academic success of our students.

When Compensatory funding is reduced, restricted, or is not adjusted for inflation, the impact is felt immediately by students and families who already have the least margin for loss. Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD# 13 serves a high-need community and relies on this funding to help close opportunity gaps that affect our children and have long-term impacts on our workforce and communities.

I urge you to:

- Continue the hold harmless until at least FY28 to allow for districts to appropriately plan for any changes and for the Legislature to consider the Compensatory Revenue Task Force recommendations (October 2026), and
- Maintain and fully fund compensatory education at levels that reflect current student needs, and
- Protect the flexibility of these funds so districts can respond appropriately to local student needs, and
- Ensure funding keeps pace with inflation and enrollment changes.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to Minnesota's students. I appreciate your consideration and urge you to prioritize strong, equitable compensatory funding in the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

(Insert Name, Contact Information)