

MINNETONKA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 276

2026 LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENTS

Background

- The average Minnesota school district receives \$2,194 more per pupil than Minnetonka ISD 276 – 21% more per pupil than Minnetonka ISD 276
 - Average Minnesota district \$12,448 per pupil
 - Minnetonka ISD 276 \$10,254 per pupil
 - 320th out of 329 school districts in State Aid per pupil
- The gap has been growing – a decade ago the average Minnesota school district received \$1,287 more per pupil than Minnetonka ISD 276 – 16% more per pupil than Minnetonka ISD 276
 - Average 2015 Minnesota district \$9,114 per pupil
 - Average 2015 Minnetonka ISD 276 \$7,827 per pupil

2026 Legislative Platform Planks

Increase Local Optional Revenue by \$255 per pupil to restore lost purchasing power

- Funding has been frozen for a decade
- Would benefit all districts
- Third tier with no state equalization – local control
- Minnetonka ISD 276 impact - \$3,200,000 annually

Restore \$300 per pupil Operating Referendum Cap capacity taken away from Minnetonka ISD 276 in 2019

- Other school districts received \$300 per pupil in new money
- Minnetonka ISD 276 had \$300 shifted off of Operating Referendum to another funding formula – shift of funding but no additional money
- Referendum Cap was lowered to prevent Minnetonka ISD 276 from asking local populace for \$300 per pupil to get the same additional dollars as other school districts were simply awarded
- Minnetonka ISD 276 impact - \$3,800,000 annually

Increase the Special Education Cross Subsidy by an Additional 4% to 54%

- Special Education Cross Subsidy is scheduled to go up by 6% for FY27
- Special Education costs continue to increase faster than inflation
- Additional 4% for 10% increase in FY27 would benefit all districts
- Minnetonka ISD 276 impact - \$500,000 annually

Additional Interest Areas:

- Support efforts to enhance school safety including community based mental health
- Stabilize compensatory funding
- Support a reevaluation of Minnesota's assessment system
- Support an emphasis on student experiential learning opportunities
- Support research about student technology use in schools, including the use of AI