# What does fully funding education look like?

The current funding our district receives is insufficient to equitably serve all our students, particularly in the face of rising costs and diverse student needs.

Fully funding education means ensuring every student, regardless of their background, has the resources and support to achieve at high levels and graduate on time.

By investing equitably in education and addressing the diverse daily experiences and needs of all students, we create a system where every learner, regardless of background or circumstances, can succeed. This success fosters positive growth for our state, city, and traditionally under served communities, ultimately contributing to our collective prosperity.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*All numbers from Student Information System as of 1/7/2025*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Staff | 1,734 |
| Total Students | 9,140 |
| Free and reduced price lunch | 3,430 |
| American Indian | 980 |
| Asian | 87 |
| Hispanic | 315 |
| Black | 442 |
| Two or more races | 552 |
| White | 6,953 |
| Special Education | 2,454 |
| Early Childhood Special Ed | 242 |



## Duluth School Board

Kelly Durick Eder, *Chair*
Jill Lofald, *Vice Chair*
Sarah Mikesell, *Clerk*
Amber Sadowski, *Treasurer*
Henry Banks
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Stephanie Williams
John Magas, *Superintendent*




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Public Schools
Every Student. Every Day.

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# Legislative Platform 2026

*Every Student. Every Day.*



# Legislative Priorities





## School Funding

*Ensuring stable, equitable, and predictable resources for every student, every day.*

### State Education Aid

- Increase the general education formula for FY25-26 to address staffing shortages, student supports, salaries, inflation and learning recovery.

### Fully Fund State-Mandated Programs

- Establish permanent funding for unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff, paid family leave, universal school meals, and Grow Your Own educator pathways.

### Special Education

- Support Duluth-specific legislation reimbursing $1 million for a state formula error (FY16-FY19) that forced DPS to absorb a $5.8 million gap.

### Technology, Safety & Infrastructure

- Increase funding for instructional technology, cybersecurity, and tech support; expand school safety resources; increase LTFM revenue and provide greater flexibility in its use; expand Solar for Schools and raise the grant cap to cover up to 100% of project costs.

### Career & Technical Education

- Create permanent, dedicated funding for CTE equipment, supplies, and industry-aligned technology.

### Transportation Aid

- Increase state transportation aid to reflect inflation and Duluth's geographic service area.

### READ Act Implementation

- Fully fund literacy training, curriculum, coaching, and implementation supports.

## School Policy

*Creating a sustainable, modern policy environment for student learning and district operations.*

### Reserve Teacher Flexibility

- Reduce barriers to serving as a reserve teacher by easing requirements. (e.g., removing the 4-year degree requirement)

### Expand Educator Workforce

- Broaden licensure pathways and support district flexibility in building diverse and effective educator pipelines.

### No Unfunded Mandates

- Require full state funding for any newly imposed district responsibilities.

## Student Mental Health

*Prioritizing well-being so students can learn, grow, and thrive.*

- Increase funding for school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and chemical-health staff.
- Strengthen school-based mental health partnerships.
- Sustain resources for trauma-informed practices, prevention, and crisis supports.

## The Duluth Promise

*A coordinated regional workforce strategy supported by DPS, UMD, CSS, Lake Superior College, the Duluth Chamber, APEX, the City of Duluth, and the Duluth Workforce Development Board.*

- Align K-12, higher education, employers, and training partners.
- Address projected workforce shortages and expanded local career pathways for students.