

September 2017
vol 14 ♦ no 11

Twenty AMSD Districts with Referendums on Ballot

September 8, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 a.m.
Grand Hall,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

September 29, 2017 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m.
Lexington Room,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

October 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 a.m.
Grand Hall,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

NEW SAVE THE DATE December 8, 2017 AMSD Annual Conference

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Grand Hall,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

AMSD's Mission

To advocate for state education policy that enables metropolitan school districts to improve student learning.



Association of
Metropolitan School Districts

Twenty AMSD member school districts will have important referendum questions on the ballot this fall. The ballot questions range from operating referendum renewals or increases to capital project levies and bonding proposals. In total, AMSD members will have 35 questions on the ballot. A brief description of the referendum questions is outlined in the chart on page 4.

Referendums Are An Integral Part of Minnesota's School Finance System

Minnesota's education funding system is based on a state and local partnership to provide the resources and opportunities our students need to graduate from high school ready for college or career. Local property taxes provide about 27% of the revenue for Minnesota school districts – a level that has been fairly constant for several years. As shown in Figure 1 on page 3, the State share of education revenue has risen from 65% in 2012 to 67% in 2017, while the federal share has dropped from 7% to 6%.

Referendum Revenue Provides Critical Resources

School districts rely on revenue from operating referendums just to maintain current programs or to reduce budget cuts. Referendum revenue provides resources for basic, essential services and programs for students. In fact, 99% of Minnesota school districts rely on an operating referendum - a clear sign of the importance of this source of revenue. Metropolitan school districts are particularly reliant on voter-approved operating referendums. Unlike many other states, Minnesota's education funding system does not account for regional variations in operating costs. As a result, metro school districts depend on voter-approved operating referendums to cover market-driven operating cost differentials.

School districts also rely on capital projects referendums to provide the technology their students need in today's digital world, while capital bond referendums are needed to build and maintain safe and secure facilities for students, staff and the public.

Continued on page 3



From the Chair

As this month's research article notes, 20 AMSD member school districts have important referendum questions on the ballot this fall. The article includes links to the school district websites where detailed information about the referendum questions can be found. I encourage citizens to contact their local school officials if they have any questions about their local referendum. In addition, you can find information about voting, including how to register, how to vote early and which candidates and questions are on your ballot on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>. Most importantly, if you have a local referendum, school board or city election, I encourage you to exercise your right to VOTE!

Steve Adams, school board member from Hopkins Public Schools, is chair of AMSD.

School District 622: North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale

The Leader in Me at Weaver Elementary

Imagine a school where students as young as second grade lead daily all-school morning meetings and assemblies, speak at events and greet guests. Welcome to Weaver Elementary, where student leadership is the norm, thanks to a framework known as *The Leader in Me*.

Recently, students from Weaver Elementary hosted elected officials, local business owners, district leaders and peers for the site's first Leadership Day. The event allowed students the opportunity to showcase the leaders they've become. From the time guests arrived in the parking lot until the end of the day, students were at the center, giving tours of the site and sharing presentations about the different leadership roles they fulfill. It was rare to hear an adult's voice that day!

"Students are actually at the core of why the framework works," said Pangjua Xiong, Weaver principal. "It's a focus on sharing and distributing power and leadership to students so that our school becomes truly "our school". Students feel empowered to take on leadership roles throughout the classrooms and school."

Weaver Elementary School

We are LEADERS • We are ACHIEVERS



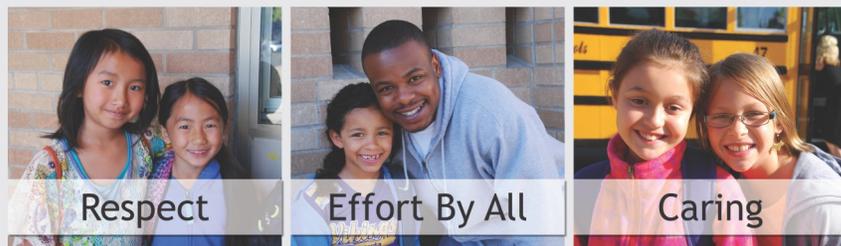
Core Belief	Mission	Vision
We value each other so we make strong connections between students, families, and staff.	We support everyone to LEAD: Life-long learners Empowered for Achievement with Determination	Everyone will be individually confident, achieving goals together.



The 2016-2017 school year was the first time the framework was implemented at Weaver. Students have benefitted in many ways, including social emotional learning, a growth mindset and a focus on academics. Students are provided opportunities to lead through service to others and to practice seven habits, which are based off of content from the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Weaver students focus on: personal and interpersonal effectiveness, responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal.

Weaver Elementary School

"Students and adults at Weaver will be empowered with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success."



The Leader in Me is aligned to many national and state academic standards. The process teaches students the skills needed for academic success in any setting. These skills include critical thinking, goal setting, listening and speaking, self-directed learning, presentation-making and the ability to work in groups.

Currently, Weaver Elementary is one of 12 schools in Minnesota using *The Leader in Me* framework. Nationally, there are over 200 schools. Globally, there are over 2,000 schools.

In the coming years, Weaver will implement deeper levels of *The Leader in Me* and expand the framework to guide other areas of the school.

This month's member spotlight was submitted by Cathleen Hess, communications and marketing coordinator, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Schools.

Referendum Revenue Provides Critical Resources

Continued from page 1

State Funding Has Improved, But Still Lags Behind Inflation

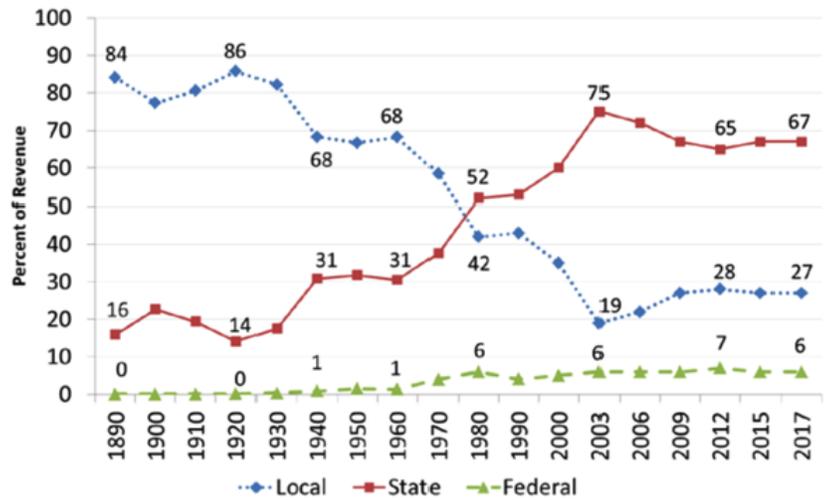
The Governor and legislators have made strides toward stabilizing Minnesota’s education funding system in recent years, including approving a 2% per year formula increase in the 2017 legislative session. Nonetheless, the basic formula continues to lag behind inflation. As Figure 2 shows, the basic funding formula would be \$579 per pupil higher in the 2017-18 school year if it had simply kept up with inflation since 2003.

Cross-Subsidies Heighten Importance of Referendum Revenue

In addition, the state and federal governments fall far short of providing the funding necessary to cover mandated special education and English learner services. Consequently, public school districts are forced to re-direct money meant for regular classroom instruction to make up the difference. The Minnesota Department of Education’s FY 2015 cross-subsidy report shows that special education costs exceeded state and federal special education aid by \$643 million (State portion: \$266 million) in FY 2015. The cross-subsidy is projected to grow to \$680 million (State portion: \$274 million) by FY 2017 and \$719 million (State portion: \$288 million) by FY 2019. In FY 2016, Minnesota public school districts spent almost \$148 million on services for English learners, but received just over \$52 million in English learner funding. Consequently, school districts redirected over \$95 million in general education revenue to provide important services to English learners.

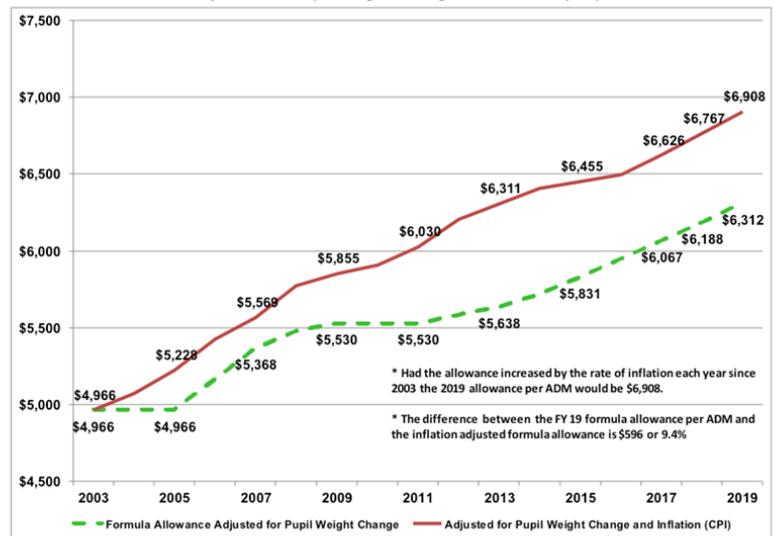
The chart on page 4 outlines the AMSD member district referendum questions that will appear on the November 7 ballot (St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District will hold their election on September 7).

Figure 1
PERCENT OF REVENUE BY SOURCE,
Minnesota K-12 Education, 1890-2017



Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Figure 2
General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2019
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE January 2017 Inflation Estimates



Continued on page 4

AMSD Members: Anoka-Hennepin School District, Bloomington Public Schools, Board of School Administrators (Associate Member), Brooklyn Center Community Schools, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Columbia Heights Public Schools, Eastern Carver County Schools, Eden Prairie Schools, Edina Public Schools, Elk River Area School District, Equity Alliance MN (Associate Member), Farmington Area Public Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, Intermediate School District 287, Intermediate School District 917 (Associate Member), Inver Grove Heights Schools, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Mahtomedi Public Schools, Metro ECSU (Associate Member), Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Mounds View Public Schools, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916, Northwest Suburban Integration District (Associate Member), Orono Schools, Osseo Area Schools, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, Richfield Public Schools, Robbinsdale Area Schools, Rochester Public Schools; Rockford Area Schools, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools, Shakopee Public Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, South Washington County Schools, SouthWest Metro Intermediate District (Associate Member), Spring Lake Park Schools, St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District, St. Cloud Area Schools, St. Louis Park Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Stillwater Area Public Schools, TIES (Associate Member), Wayzata Public Schools, West Metro Education Program, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools and White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Research

More detailed information is available by clicking on the district name in the chart below.

#	District	# ?s	Type	Details
6	South St. Paul Public Schools	2	Operating	Renewal with New Authority: \$567.10 per pupil renewal, \$354.00 per pupil new, \$921.10 per pupil total, \$3,537,383 overall total, 10 years.
			Capital Projects	\$676,095, 10 years. Renewal of the district's technology levy will help fund technology for teaching and learning by keeping computers up-to-date, giving students exposure and access to technology tools and providing teachers with technology training.
11	Anoka-Hennepin School District	2	Operating	\$226.20 per pupil, \$9.5 million overall total, 10 years.
			Bond	\$249 million, 25 years, Two new elementary schools, remove portables, high school and middle school additions, safety improvements, media center remodels and science lab remodels.
13	Columbia Heights Public Schools	1	Bond	\$16 million, 15 years, addition and remodeling in two buildings.
191	Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191	2	Operating	Renewal, \$757.19 per pupil, \$7,285,395 overall total, 10 years.
			Operating	Renewal with New Authority, additional \$415 per pupil plus renewal, 757.19 APU with inflation on whole, \$3,993,130 additional, 10 years.
194	Lakeville Area Public Schools	1	Operating	Renewal, \$692.75 per pupil, \$8,279,693 overall total, 10 years.
199	Inver Grove Heights Community Schools	2	Operating	Renewal with New Authority, \$819 per pupil, \$983,961 additional, \$3,137,245 overall total, 10 years.
			Capital Projects	\$166.55 per pupil, \$638,000 overall total, 10 years. For curriculum materials, tech, furnishings, and musical instruments.
270	Hopkins Public Schools	3	Operating	Renewal, \$2010.52 per pupil, \$15.5 million annually, 10 years.
			Capital Project	Renewal with new authority, additional \$500,000 per year for 10 years, additional \$5 million over the 10 years.
			Bond	\$30 million, 16 years. Elementary school addition and other improvements.
271	Bloomington Public Schools	1	Operating	Renewal with new authority, \$1,472 per pupil renewal, \$465 per pupil new, \$1,937 per pupil total, 10 years.
273	Edina Public Schools	1	Operating	Renewal and increase. \$1,857.46 per pupil for taxes payable in 2018 with an inflationary increase in that amount for taxes payable in 2019; and \$2,075.07 per pupil for taxes payable in 2020, with an inflationary increase in that amount for taxes payable in 2021 through 2027.
280	Richfield Public Schools	2	Operating	\$450 per pupil for 10 years.
			Bond	\$86,800,000 for 25 years. Supporting long term maintenance, updates in safety, security and traffic flow along with educational improvements in labs and common areas.
282	St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District	1	Bond	September 7, 2017: \$14.06 million for Wilshire Park Elementary School.
283	St. Louis Park Public Schools	2	Operating	Renew current authorization of \$2,079.99 per pupil set to expire in 2018, 10 years.
			Bond	\$100.9 million bond, renovations at high school, middle school, elementary school, and district-wide technology and deferred maintenance.
284	Wayzata Public Schools	3	Operating	Renewal with new authority, \$1497 per pupil to \$2000 per pupil, increase of \$5 million total (\$20 to \$25 million), 10 years.
			Capital Project	Renewal, \$334 per pupil \$4 million first year, 10 years.
			Bond	\$70 million, 20 years. New Elementary, Media Centers, Safety, MS Performing Arts.
286	Brooklyn Center Community Schools	2	Operating	\$210 per pupil, \$554,442 total per year, 10 years.
			Bond	29,930,000, 25 years. Provide construction funds for Earle Brown Elementary and Brooklyn Center Secondary School to increase and remodel classroom spaces, improve school security, and provide separate entrances and classroom areas for middle school and high school students.
621	Mounds View Public Schools	1	Bond	\$164.8 million bond, 25 years, Betterment of school sites and facilities by addressing capacity, safety and security, infrastructure needs and shared school and community spaces.
623	Roseville Area Schools	1	Bond	\$144,000,000, 20 years. To provide funds for the repair, upgrade, and construction of improvements and additions to various school sites and facilities district-wide, including without limitation improving safety and security, addressing aging buildings, adding space to accommodate increasing student enrollment, updating learning spaces, and enhancing community resources.
624	White Bear Lake Area Schools	1	Operating	Renewal, \$1538.31 per pupil, 14,258,735 overall total, 10 years.
719	Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools	2	Operating	Renewal with new authority, \$973.97 per pupil, overall total \$8,380,810 for 10 years.
			Bond	\$109.3 million, 20 years. New elementary school, additions at high school, both middle schools and some elementary schools.
833	South Washington County Schools	3	Operating	Renewal of expiring levy, \$780.72 per pupil, \$15.3 million overall total for 10 years.
			Operating	Additional \$375 per pupil, \$7.5 million overall total for 10 years.
			Capital Project	\$2 million, 10 years.
883	Rockford Area Schools	2	Operating	\$1,142 per pupil for 10 years.
			Capital Project	\$399,500 per year for 10 years. The money raised by this authorization will provide funds for the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, computers, mobile devices, improved technology, technology systems, networks, infrastructure, office and instructional technology, and related training.