

## ACTION ALERT

The Minnesota House and Senate each released their education budget bills this past weekend.

The House heard your voices; their omnibus education finance bill would allocate \$1.1 billion to early education through grade 12 for fiscal year 2023 and \$2.2 billion for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

The Senate unfortunately did not put forward any new funding for priorities such as special education or English Learner programs. The Senate bill would allocate only \$30.7 million for fiscal year 2023 and \$1.4 million for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

### **Time to Connect with Senate Republicans**

When the Legislature returns from their break on April 19, they will have a month left in the legislative session. Now is the time to ramp up pressure on Senate Republicans who must strike a deal with Governor Walz and House Democrats if any new school funding will get passed this session.

Since Minneapolis has no Republicans among our legislative delegation, we are asking MPS advocates to reach out to friends and family in key suburban and Greater Minnesota communities represented by Republican State Senators.

### **Finding their State Senator is easy.**

1. Visit <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>
2. Type in their home address to find their State Senator
3. Ask them to call or email their State Senator

### **What should they ask for?**

Ask their State Senator to fully fund special education and English Learner programs. These important, mandated services are underfunded and have required school districts to seek increased property taxes to make up for inadequate state funding. The State Senate can hold down future property tax increases by fully funding special education and English Learner programs.

Here are a few of the communities we are seeking to activate to call their State Senators:

- Winona, Preston, Caledonia
- Blue Earth, Janesville, Winnebago, Fairmont, Jackson, St. James, Lake Crystal
- Worthington, Luverne, Windom, Pipestone, Tyler, Tracy, Ivanhoe
- Centerville, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Blaine, Circle Pines, White Bear Lake, Dellwood, North Oaks, Hugo
- Rochester, Stewartville, Farmington
- Dover, Eyota, Oronoco, Mantorville, Kasson, Byron, Pine Island
- Stillwater, Franconia, Scandia, Forest Lake, Bayport, Lake Elmo
- Grand Rapids, Bemidji, Walker
- Mound, Minnetonka, St. Bonifacius, Long Lake, Maple Plain, Excelsior, Shorewood

Please connect with your friends and family members over the next two weeks. Help them understand that the underfunding of special education and English Learner services are impacting all districts in the state. Ask them to email or call their State Senator.

Thank you!