



Independent School District 625
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Office of the Superintendent
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April 6, 2011

To the parents of Saint Paul Public School Students:

I am writing to you to bring you up to date on action at the Minnesota State Legislature that, if signed into law, will cause great damage to Saint Paul Public Schools.

The proposed K-12 education bills target Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth public school districts for deep cuts. The largest cut comes from the elimination of integration aid and freezing funding to programs that help children from low-income families and special education students.

Our progress is at risk.

Cuts in integration aid amount to \$28 million for Saint Paul Public Schools over the next two years.

Eliminating the programs directly funded by integration aid will result in the elimination of school choice in Saint Paul.

- Integration aid provides all of the funding for bus transportation to magnet schools and language academies.
- Integration aid provides all of the funding for the Student Placement Center.
- Integration aid provides the funding for magnet schools and language academies.
- Integration aid helps to fund many of the International Baccalaureate programs.

We are required by law to provide special education services. Freezing special education funding without reducing services amounts to an additional cut of \$3 million.

This money will have to be made up from our general fund. The likely result of this cut will be increasing class sizes and the elimination of all day kindergarten.

Just three weeks ago, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Strong Schools, Strong Communities strategic plan to improve achievement for all students. **A budget cut of \$31 million, just as the plan is being implemented, will make it very difficult for the district to do what it has promised to do for Saint Paul's children.**

The budget cuts in the bills directed at Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth schools are not yet law.

To become law, they need to be signed by Governor Dayton. The Governor has proposed a budget that does not include these drastic cuts to our schools. If the Governor chooses not to sign the bills, they will need to be rewritten by the legislature.

As citizens, you can contact the Governor and any member of the legislature and let them know what you think.

The Governor can be reached here:
<http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>

Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: 651-201-3400
Toll Free: 800-657-3717

We also recommend that you contact your own legislators and the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

You can identify your legislators at:
<http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>

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You can identify your legislators at:
<http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>

The legislative leaders are:

Representative Kurt Zellers, District: 32B

Speaker of the House

463 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

651-296-5502

E-mail: rep.kurt.zellers@house.mn

Senator Amy T. Koch, District 19

Senate Majority Leader

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Capitol Building, Room 208

St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

651.296.5981

Email: sen.amy.koch@senate.mn

The proposed budget cuts will hurt education in Saint Paul. If you are concerned about the risks to your child's school, you can make your voice heard.

Sincerely,



Valeria S. Silva
Superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools