



January 2017 Legislative Update

South Washington County Schools

The following are summary statements regarding various issues that we believe will have a significant impact on educational services for our students, staff, parents and the community. Know that we would be happy to represent our district during any conversations or hearings taking place throughout this year's Legislative Session. Thank you for your time and attention to public education in your district.

Thank you in advance for your work in the coming legislative session. Our district has a plan in place that supports personalized learning for all students, while working to close the achievement gaps that exist in our district. Flexibility in state statutes and mandates allows us to be more flexible in our approach and moving forward to accomplish our goals. Below are some issues for you to consider that we believe would support the flexibility needed within our district.



- 1 Increase funding on the base formula and funding for Special Education to reduce the cross subsidy. Index both the formula and Special Education funding to inflation.



- 2 Allow locally-elected School Boards to renew existing operating referendums at least once for every voter-approved authority.



- 3 Allow locally-elected School Boards to adopt the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students and community.



- 4 Allow full reciprocity for licenses from other states to streamline the ability of an educator to work in Minnesota, and to help alleviate the teacher shortage.



- 5 Focus on school readiness funding and policies; reduce scholarships and increase school readiness funds.



- 6 Increase equalization of operating referendum, debt service and local optional levies to reduce funding disparities.



- 7 Allow districts the flexibility to use lease levy funding to add needed non-educational space in buildings.

2017 School Board

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