

Minnesota House and Senate budgets: How they stack up

Smaller class sizes. More support staff. Greater access to mental health resources and welcoming schools where all students, no matter race or place, can thrive and succeed.

Students deserve all this and more, but not all of our elected officials are listening.

The House DFL's education budget is a strong first step toward fully funding our schools. The Senate Republicans' plan siphons money from our public schools and will force districts to make harmful budget cuts and lay off staff. Here's a comparison of the two proposals.

Minnesota House	Minnesota Senate
Invests in public schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$395 million in general aid – 2 percent annual increase linked to inflation.▪ \$41 million to maintain voluntary pre-K spots.	Siphons public dollars to private schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ZERO new dollars on the general formula for public schools.▪ Over \$300 million for vouchers and other funding sources for private schools.*
Creates welcoming schools for ALL students <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$70 million for special education students.▪ \$30 million for English learners.▪ \$17 million for student support personnel like social workers and counselors.▪ \$10 million for full-service community schools.	Neglects student needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ZERO new dollars for special education.▪ ZERO new dollars for English learners.▪ ZERO new dollars for student support staff.▪ ZERO dollars for full-service community schools.▪ Prohibits trans female athletes from competing in sports.
Advances racial equity in public education <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$29 million so students have access to more teachers of color and diverse curriculum, including language to protect teachers in their early careers.▪ Grants for non-exclusionary discipline and trauma-informed training to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.	Ignores need for culturally responsive schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ZERO policy changes to attract and retain teachers of color and build affirming schools.▪ Focuses on zero-tolerance disciplinary practices that push more students out of the classroom.
Elevates and protects educator voice <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$13 million for paid training for education support professionals.▪ Significant changes to tiered licensure, including allowing Tier 1 teachers to join the bargaining unit so they can negotiate for the resources and training they need.▪ Expands mandatory subjects of bargaining to include class sizes and more support staff.	Attacks educator freedoms and the profession <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ZERO dollars for paid training for our ESPs.▪ Continues to prohibit Tier 1 teachers from joining their bargaining unit and makes it easier for schools to hire non-unionized staff.▪ ZERO changes to bargaining rights.▪ Prohibits the use of seniority in budget layoff decisions.

**For the 2024-25 biennium*