

Education Minnesota

North Star report documents real decline in state school funding

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ST. PAUL, Minn. Sept. 14, 2018 – Nine of every 10 school districts in Minnesota are now receiving less state aid per pupil than in fiscal 2003, and school property tax levies are higher in nearly every district, according to a new report from the North Star Policy Institute.

The report documents the decline in total state aid after accounting for the rising cost of goods and services that school districts must purchase. The report also shows the changes in state aid and local levies for every district in Minnesota.

Education Minnesota President Denise Specht said the report should serve as a wake-up call for Minnesotans who care about public education and the future of our state.

“Everyone knows strong public schools benefit the whole state and all its businesses,” Specht said. “But this report shows that for 16 years the Legislature has passed a growing part of the tab for public education to the people who can least afford it – educators who now pay more for school supplies and health care, parents who pay more in activity fees and individual homeowners who pay more in local levies. It’s time for Minnesota’s wealthiest residents and corporations to step up and cover their fair share of the cost of providing Minnesota students with the schools they deserve.”

The report is available here: <https://northstarpolicy.org>

About Education Minnesota

Education Minnesota is the voice for professional educators and students. Education Minnesota’s members include teachers and education support professionals in Minnesota’s public school districts, faculty members at Minnesota’s community and technical colleges and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Crookston, retired educators and student teachers. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

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