



# Referendum Recommendation

School Board Meeting, July 17, 2018  
Dr. Joe Gothard, Superintendent

# Our Commitment

- Provide our 37,000+ students and our community with world-class learning opportunities
- Create safe and welcoming learning environments for our students and staff
- Hire and retain high-quality staff to deliver on our commitment to students, families and community



# Our Community

- Residents overwhelmingly agree that strong public schools are linked to the well-being of our community and strong property values
- Nearly 60 percent grade the district with an A or B
- Our community supports the vision being outlined in our Strategic Plan

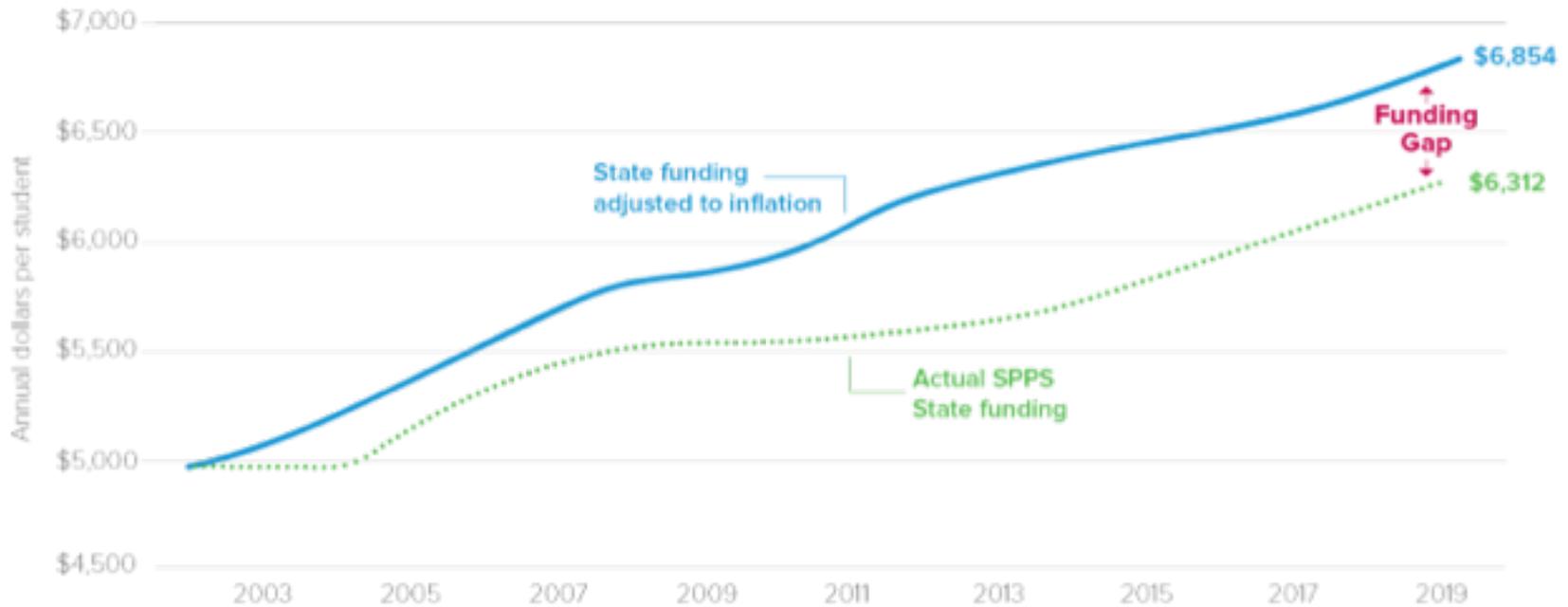


# Our Challenge

- Funding these commitments requires resources
- Federal, state and local funding are not keeping pace with increased educational needs and costs
- We have cut more than \$50 million in the the past three years - and approved cuts of more than \$17 million for next year



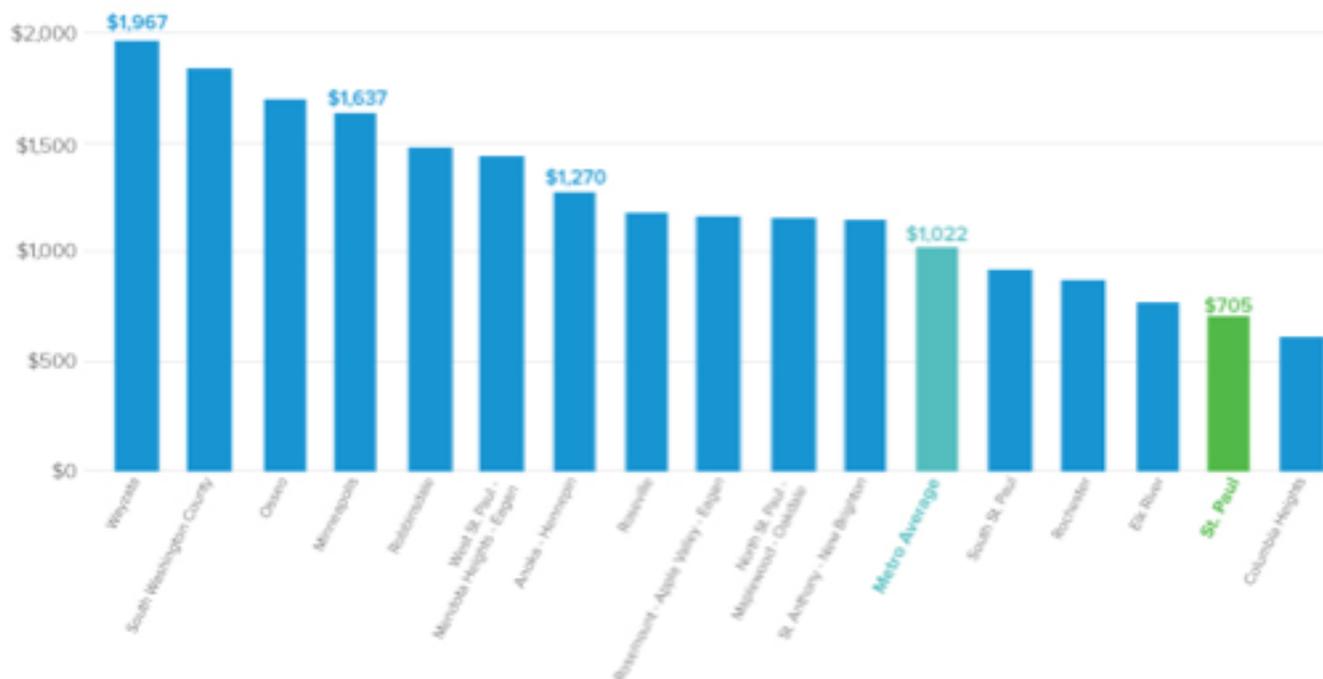
## State Basic General Education Funding per Student



If state funding had kept up with inflation, SPPS would receive nearly \$550 more per student, or a total of \$19 million more this year.



## Voter Approved Operating Levies, 2018-19



Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is the second largest school district in Minnesota, but has one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies when compared to the state's ten largest districts and SPPS neighbors. These levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs.



# Board Action Requested

Administration recommends the Saint Paul Board of Education approve placing a school funding request on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot to:

- Increase our operating levy by \$475 per student
- If approved by voters, this would generate approximately \$18.6 million per year
- This levy would extend for ten years with annual inflation increases
- The estimated tax impact on our average homeowner (\$175,000 value home) would be approximately \$11 per month or \$136 per year



# If voters approve the request

- Invest more in schools and student needs at all grade levels
- Implement the district's Strategic Plan to increase achievement for all students
- Increase mental health and social-emotional supports for students
- Create middle schools designed to meet the academic and developmental needs of this age group and set them on a solid path for high school and beyond
- Provide some flexibility for emerging needs and new educational best practices
- Limit additional budget cuts



# If voters do not approve the request

- Continued multi-million dollar budget cuts
- Cuts to programs that help students struggling with basic academic skills
- Cuts to staff and academic programs in all schools
- Cuts to the number of administrators, classroom aides, clerical, custodial and other support staff throughout the district
- Severely limit the district's ability to implement its new community-supported Strategic Plan



# Strategic Plan - Student Outcomes

- **Decrease differences in achievement** based on race, ethnicity, culture and identity
- Increase achievement of students **learning English** as a second language
- Increase achievement of students **receiving special education** services
- Improve the **readiness of students** before they enter kindergarten
- Increase **academic growth in reading and math** for all students
- Prepare all graduates for **college, career and life**



# We Listened

Our Strategic Plan and our levy request are based not just on our needs, but also on community input:

- More than 700 people have provided input thus far on the Strategic Plan and more will do so
- Our levy request is based on the values and hopes our community shared through a scientific survey of registered voters, in addition to our financial realities



# Summary

Administration recommends that the Board approves asking voters to consider an increase in the district's operating levy, to support our ability to:

- Invest more in schools and student needs at all grade levels
- Implement the district's Strategic Plan to increase achievement for all students

