



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

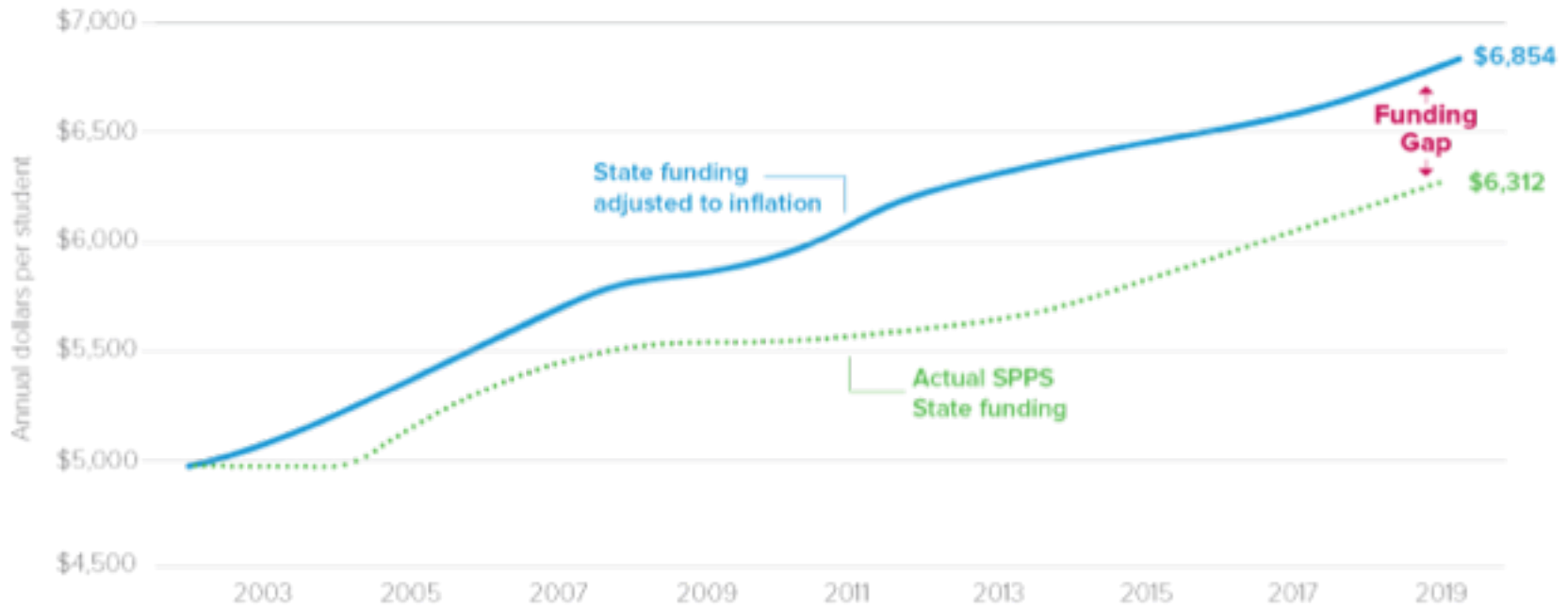


Our Challenge

- 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



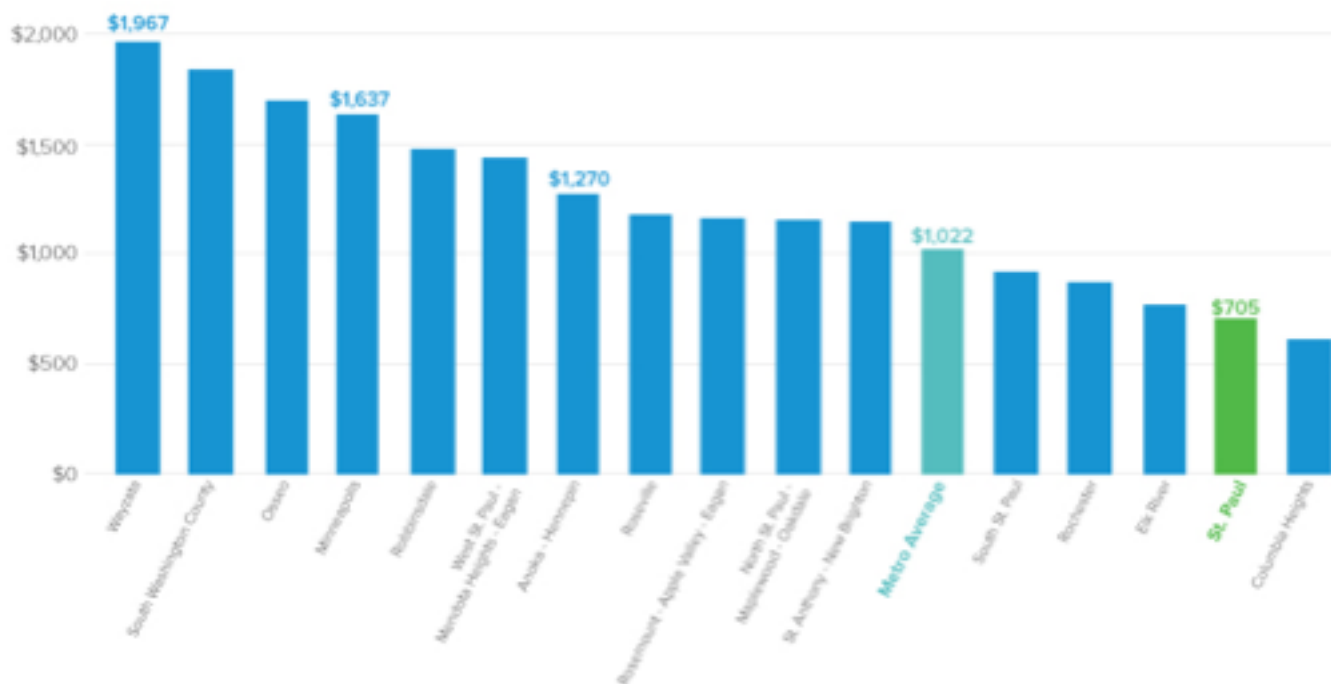
State Basic General Education Funding per Student



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

