

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY KEY MESSAGES



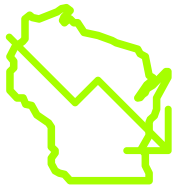
To keep property taxes flat in the best interest of our community members, we are asking for an increase in per-pupil categorical aid instead of continuing down the path of operational referendums, or revenue limit adjustments.



Increases in revenue for schools has not kept pace with inflation, leading to a substantial historical funding gap in costs per student at MTSD. We are asking that this deficit be addressed in the next biennial budget.



Special Education costs have increased and state reimbursement percentages have not kept up with need, causing MTSD to move \$5.5 million last year from a fund meant for general education of all students to the special education fund. Statewide, this number is more than \$1.25 billion per year.



Educational funding statewide lags other states and we are currently investing 5.6% LESS than the national average in our students. (Source: [Wisconsin Policy Forum](#))



In 2017, the state of Wisconsin established a Blue Ribbon Commission on Education Funding, which developed the following recommendations:

- Provide sustainable and predictable education funding
- Increase funding at least indexed to inflation
- Increase reimbursement for special education, with 60% as a goal

Throughout the last seven years, the Blue Ribbon Commission has failed to meet its recommendations as outlined.



With adequate and sustainable state funding, MTSD would not need to ask the community to approve any operational referenda.