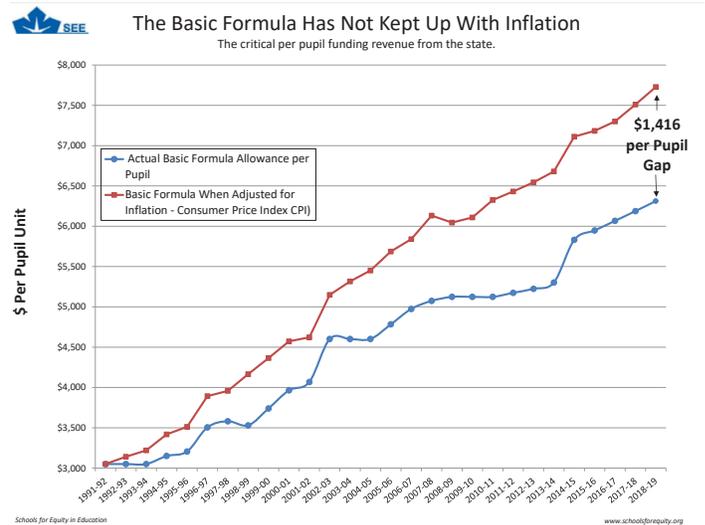


Budget Update 2019-20



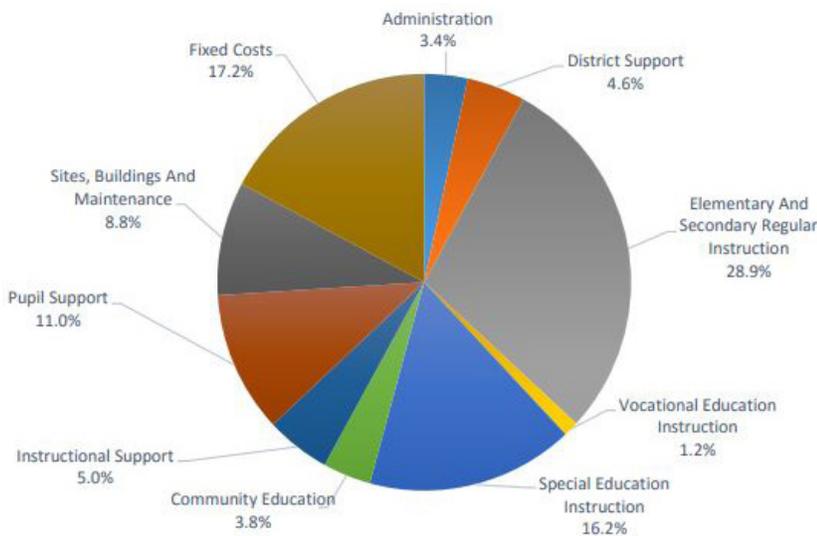
Due to a continued pattern of declining enrollment affecting roughly 40% (Schools for Equity in Education) of school districts in Minnesota; combined with stagnant funding from the legislature not keeping pace with inflation, and special education under-funding, North Branch Area Public Schools must look for budget savings for the 2019-20 school year.

The chart at right demonstrates how state funding has fallen behind inflation by over \$1,400 per pupil, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As well, an increasing share of the funding received by school districts goes toward covering the cost of unfunded state and federal mandates.



For the 2019-20 school year, North Branch Area Public Schools (NBAPS) must realize \$2.7 million in budget savings to address the decrease in funding resulting from stagnant funding, unfunded mandates, and declining enrollment. Work on a recommendation to be ready for next year's funding levels is already underway and it is expected the school board will vote on that recommendation at its March 7 meeting (Rm 126, North Branch Area Education Center, 5:30 p.m.). As NBAPS builds a budget for 2019-20, it will focus on the following priorities:

- Class size
- Career and Tech Ed
- Expand gifted and talented
- Arts opportunities
- Fulfill the promise of 2017 referendum
- Financial literacy and life skills



NBAPS is a fiscally responsible school district with a history of creating opportunity for students and families despite a broken funding system. In the last decade, NBAPS has provided all students grades 5-12 with devices, integrated Project Lead the Way K-12, added Air Force JROTC, Pro-Start, prioritized anti-bullying curriculum, instituted full-day pre-school, expanded school age care, adopted new resources in reading and math, and much more. This can be accomplished with the right funding priorities. The chart at left shows how the school district focuses on instruction and support (62.3%), not administration (3.4%)

Change is Needed Now!

From Schools for Equity in Education:

The two largest financial challenges facing school districts are the erosion of the per pupil basic formula revenue intended to provide the basic financial support for education and the growing unfunded cost of mandated special education services. Because of this, Minnesota is spending thousands of dollars less per student in the classroom today than what was spent to educate students in the early 1990s. Given the inability of the state to provide enough state-generated revenue for schools, districts are increasingly going to voters to seek additional revenue needed to maintain programs and meet the growing educational needs of students.

Without significant commercial and industrial development to expand the tax base and lower the overall taxpayer cost, the cost for school levies falls heavily on the local home and small business owners in low-property wealth districts. The high taxpayer cost reduces the amount of revenue local taxpayers can provide to support their local schools.

Virtually all area school districts are affected by this flawed funding situation; North Branch, Cambridge, Chisago Lakes, and Rush City regularly face budget challenges in order to address the state and federal governments' funding neglect.

With a new governor and new leadership at the state level, there has rarely been a better time to tell your lawmakers that the current school funding system is broken and requires changes and increases to adequately serve the students of Minnesota. Use the information at right to contact state leadership and demand these issues be addressed for now and for the future.

Budget questions or comments?

Do you have questions about school district budgeting or state funding? Would you like a better understanding of state education funding prior to contacting lawmakers? Use the information below to contact the school district. Staff will present a budget recommendation to the school board on Thursday, Feb. 28, and action is expected by the school board on March 7. Both meetings are open to the public.

The following options exist for providing input on the budget recommendation:

- E-mail: budgetinput@isd138.org
- Public hearing: Thursday, March 7, 5:30 p.m., North Branch Area Education Center, room 126
- Voicemail: 651-674-1080

For disability accommodation or a language interpreter, call the district office at 651-674-1000

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