Our Challenges

The Duluth Public Schools (DPS) recognizes and appreciates the significant investments made by the Legislature to public education in 2023. We believe the 2024 Legislative Session is another opportunity to invest in public schools and continue the progress made in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students and to ensure equitable outcomes for every student.

Supplemental education investments in 2024 will provide stability for DPS as federal pandemic era funding expires and enrollment fluctuates. DPS appreciates the notable funding increases in 2023, but our district, like so many others, is experiencing shortfalls that put progress made by students and teachers at risk.

DEMOGRAPHICS

All numbers from MDE as of 10/12/24

Total Students	8,554
Free and reduced price lunch	3,674
American Indian	648
Asian	97
Hispanic	263
Black	348
Two or more races	562
White	6,631
Special Education	1772
Early Childhood Special Ed	200



Duluth School Board

Jill Lofald, *Chair*
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, *Vice Chair*
Amber Sadowski, *Clerk*
Kelly Durick Eder, *Treasurer*
Henry Banks
Sarah Mikesell
Stephanie Williams
John Magas, *Superintendent*



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Legislative Platform 2024

Every Student. Every Day.

Legislative Priorities



What does fully funding education look like?

The funding our district receives today is not enough to serve our students properly, especially with rising costs.

Fully funding education means every student can achieve at high levels and graduate on time.

It means the needs of all students are met regardless of zip code or economic status.

When students' daily desired experiences are met they succeed, which means positive growth for our state and city.

Increased State Aid
We support an additional increase in the basic general education formula by an additional 2% for the 2024-2025 school year to address staffing shortages, Elementary and Secondary Education Relief (ESSER) federal funding running out, student and staff mental health supports, staff salary increases, decline in enrollments, and interrupted learning recovery efforts.

READ Act
We support the allocating of additional resources and funding for professional development of staff who are mandated by the READ Act to be trained.

Permanent Funding Streams
We support the creation of a permanent state funding stream for unemployment insurance for non-licensed school district employees and free school breakfast and lunch for all students, and requests that the Legislature fully fund the cost of programs.

Cybersecurity
We support additional state funding for technology support to protect data and systems from increasing attacks on networks.

LTFM Flexibility
We support the Legislature eliminating the cap on Long Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue, allowing districts like Duluth to address critical facility needs.

CTE Support
We support a one-time investment in Career and Technical Education, allowing funds to be used for equipment, supply, and technology to support the CTE mission and helping to get students into the workforce.

Operating Levies
Allow school board renewal of existing and future operating levies.

Special Education Rebate
We support House File 336 (Kozlowski & Olson) & Senate File 423 (McEwen & Hauschild), reimbursing DPS $1 million for a state formula error in FY16-FY19 which resulted in DPS filling a $5.8 million funding gap.

School Safety
We support a one-time allocation per pupil for school safety and supports allowing local authority for schools to increase safe school levy revenue to address concerns.

Solar & Electric Vehicles
We support adding additional funding to the Solar for Schools Grant and increase the grant opportunity to 100% of total costs for a 40-megawatt array and help schools with federal matching dollars for EV charging stations at school properties.