



Are we serious about quality education in Minnesota?

Schools for Equity in Education
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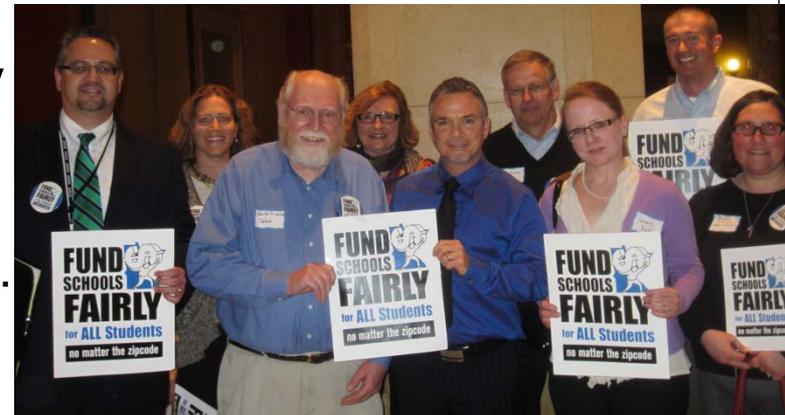
Who we are

- An coalition of 58 Minnesota school districts. SEE districts serve approximately 230,000 children, 1/3 of Minnesota K-12 students.
- SEE member district's student populations tend to **not** generate considerable categorical aid or other funding from the state. Thus our districts tend to receive the minimum in state funding.
- SEE districts tend to be lower property wealth districts making it more difficult to access voter-approved referendum revenue to make up for inadequate state funding.



What we work for. . .

- **Equal access to a high quality education** for all of Minnesota's students regardless of where they live.
- Legislation that ensures **equitable distribution of school resources**.
- **A property tax system that is fair** and provides equal access to levy revenue for low property wealth school districts, communities and their taxpayers.
- **Elected state officials are held accountable** for adequate and equitable funding and policy that enables all students to meet state and federal academic standards and allows them to reach their highest potential.
- **An educated and engaged community** of parents, grandparents, community members, business leaders – everyone who values K-12 education in Minnesota.



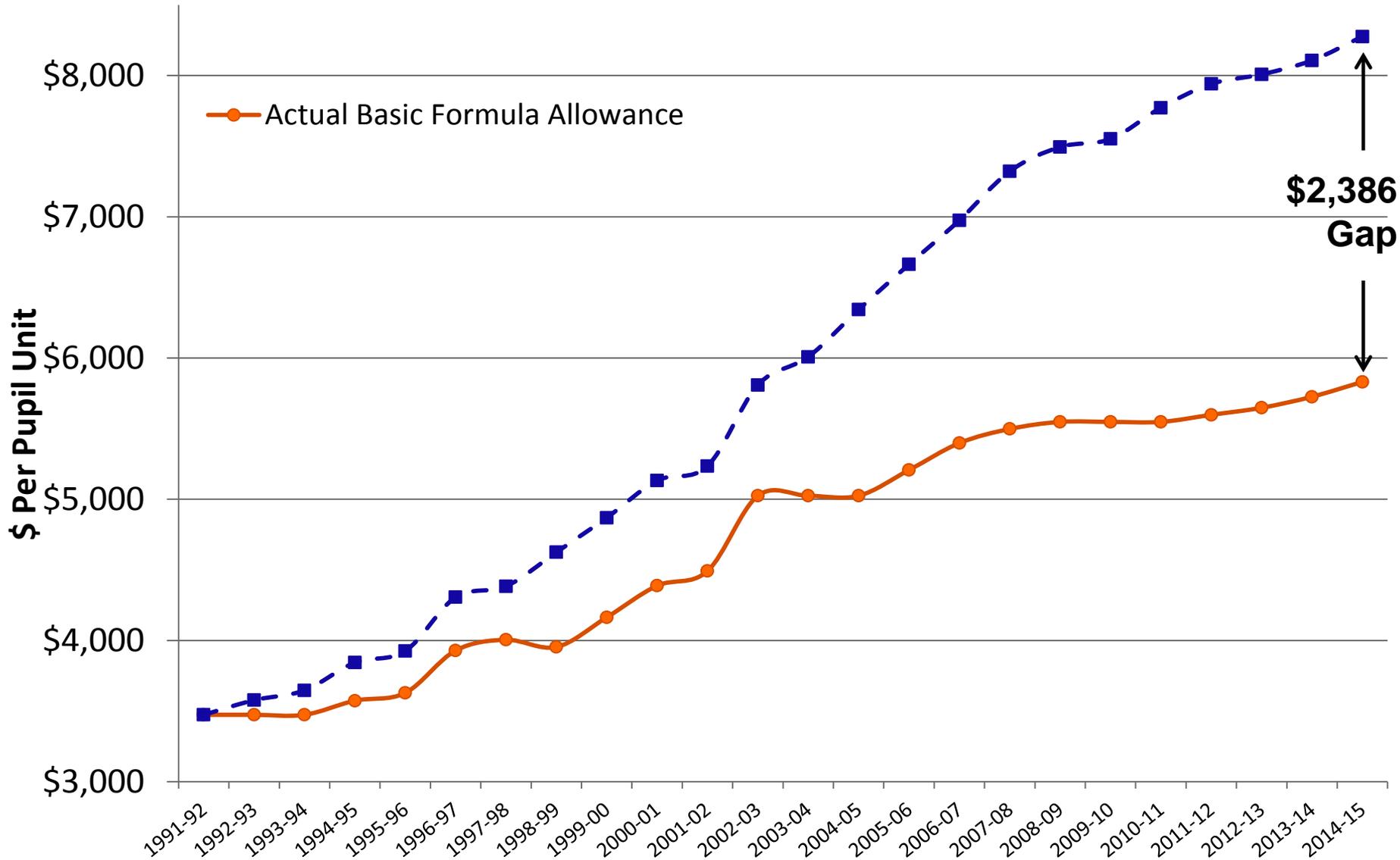
Education Funding *IS* a State Constitutional Mandate

The stability of a republican form of government depends mainly upon the intelligence of the people, **it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools.** The legislature shall **make such provisions by taxation or otherwise as will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools** throughout the state.

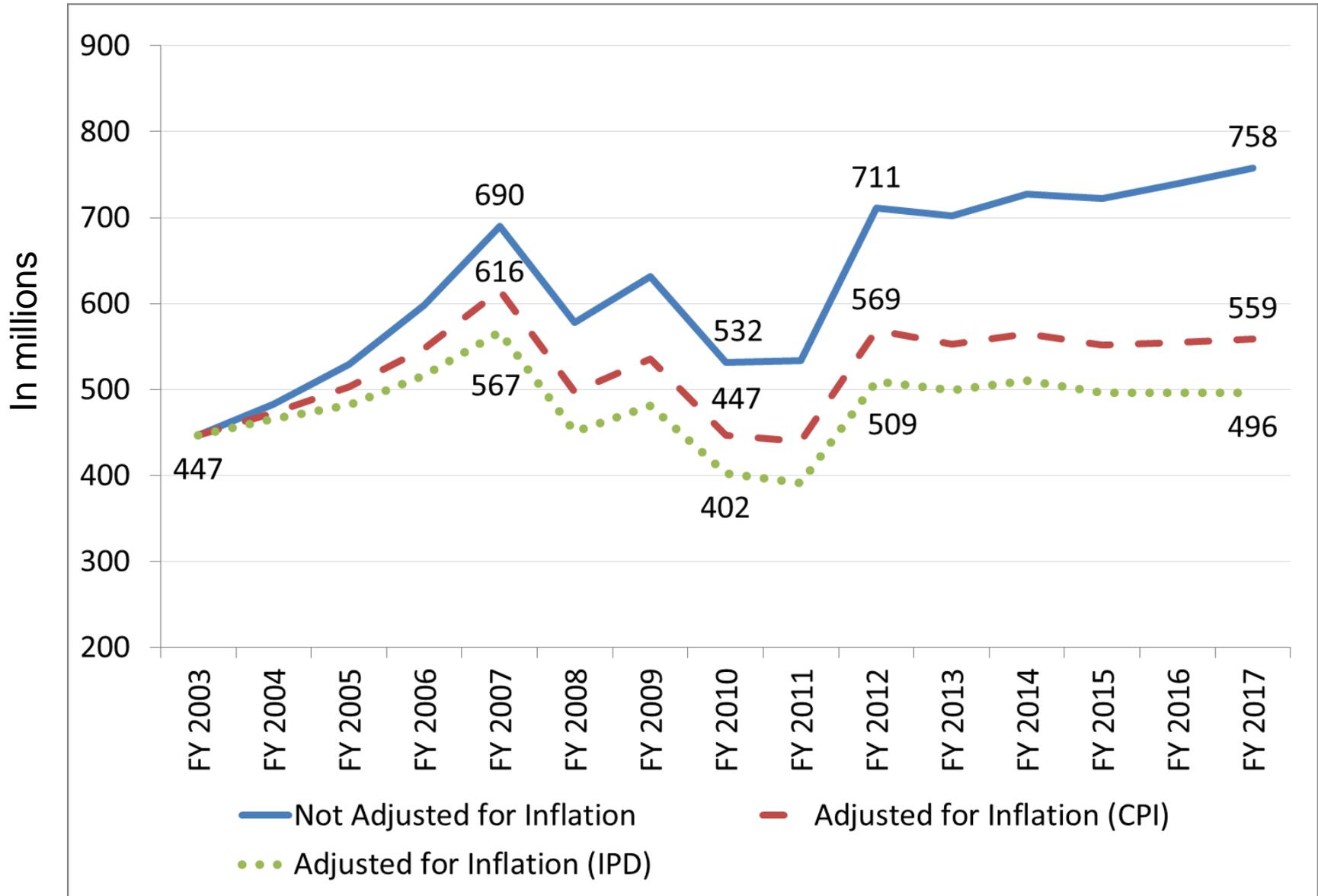
Minnesota Constitution
Article XIII, Section 1

The Basic Formula Has Not Kept Up With Inflation

The basic formula provides the majority of the funding that districts receive from the state



Special Education Cross-Subsidy (unfunded cost)



Districts rely on voter-approved school levies

- School levy revenue is primarily generated by local property taxes
- The Legislature caps local levies at \$1,845 per pupil
- The cost to the taxpayer “per levy dollar” is based on the individual property wealth of each district, which varies greatly across the state.
 - ❖ Significant commercial and industrial development broadens the tax base and lowers the overall taxpayer cost for a school levy for all home and small business owners in a school district.

Opportunity Gap - Where do you live?

Annual cost
to
residential
and
business
taxpayers
for a \$1,845
per pupil
school levy
per
\$100,000
assessed
value.

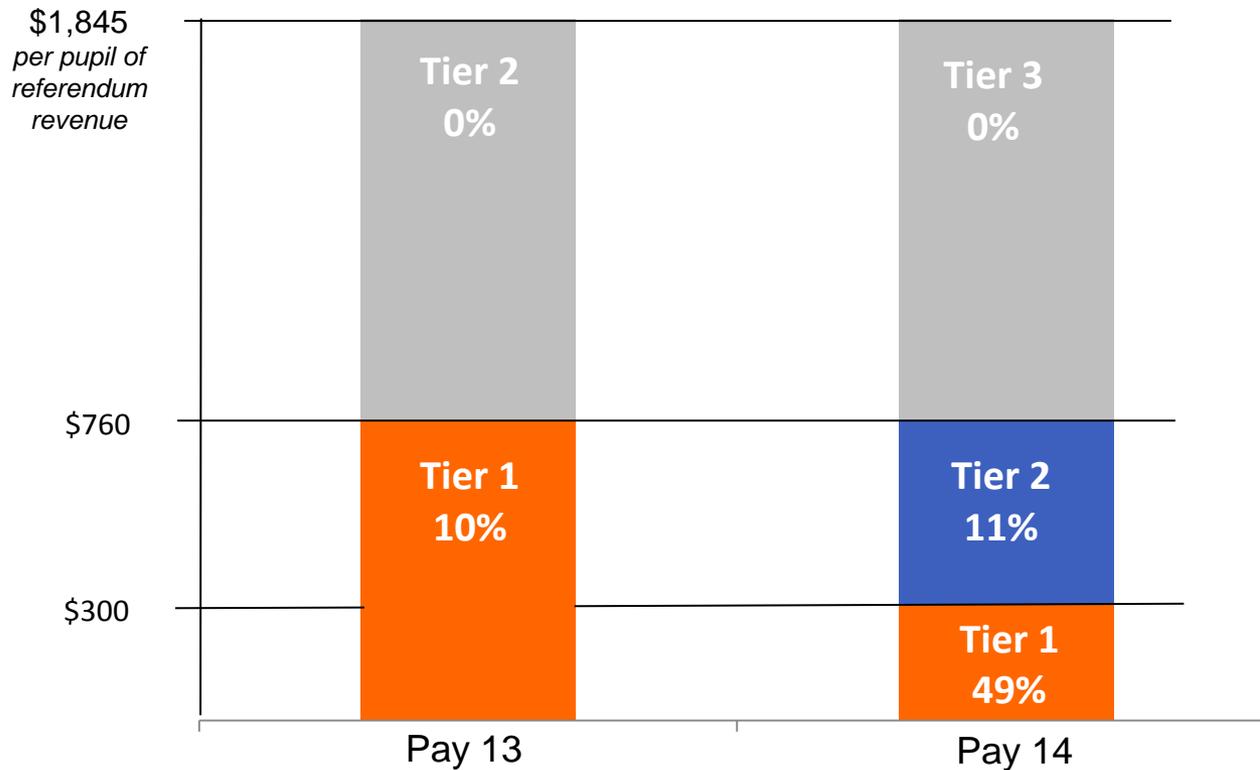
Westonka	\$152
Hopkins	\$159
St. Louis Park	\$178
Bloomington	\$209
Eden Prairie	\$226
Edina	\$226
Stillwater	\$232
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	\$346
Rockford	\$353
Annandale	\$355
Monticello	\$379
Delano	\$392
Elk River	\$405
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	\$420
Big Lake	\$453

Delano School District

2014 Reduction in Local Property Taxes for School Levy

Total Taxpayer Savings	Total Taxpayer Savings per Pupil
\$377,274	\$147

Percent Equalization The Amount of a School Levy Paid by the State



SEE Accomplishments in 2013-14

- Local school levies are more affordable for taxpayers in low property wealth districts. The session brought the first significant increases in equalization in 20 years.
- The basic formula was increased by 1.5% in 2013-14 and just under 2% for 2014-15.
- Reduction in dollars shifted from general education to fund special education mandates.
- All districts now have discretionary levy authority of \$724 per pupil without having to run expensive and time-consuming referendums.
- Full funding of all-day kindergarten.

What can you do?

➤ **Get involved!**

- Learn about how funding decisions affect your schools and ultimately impact kids.
- Develop a relationship with your legislators.
- Join SEE's network to receive electronic legislative updates and action alerts at www.schoolsforequity.org
- Make a "road trip" to the Capitol. Let your legislators know you are following their efforts.
- Spread the word—use local papers and the ball fields to tell your stories and educate your community about the REAL needs of our schools.
- Be informed about local referendums.
- Make education a campaign issue by attending candidate forums to ask about education.

***All public school children must have equal access
to a high quality education regardless
of where they live in Minnesota!***