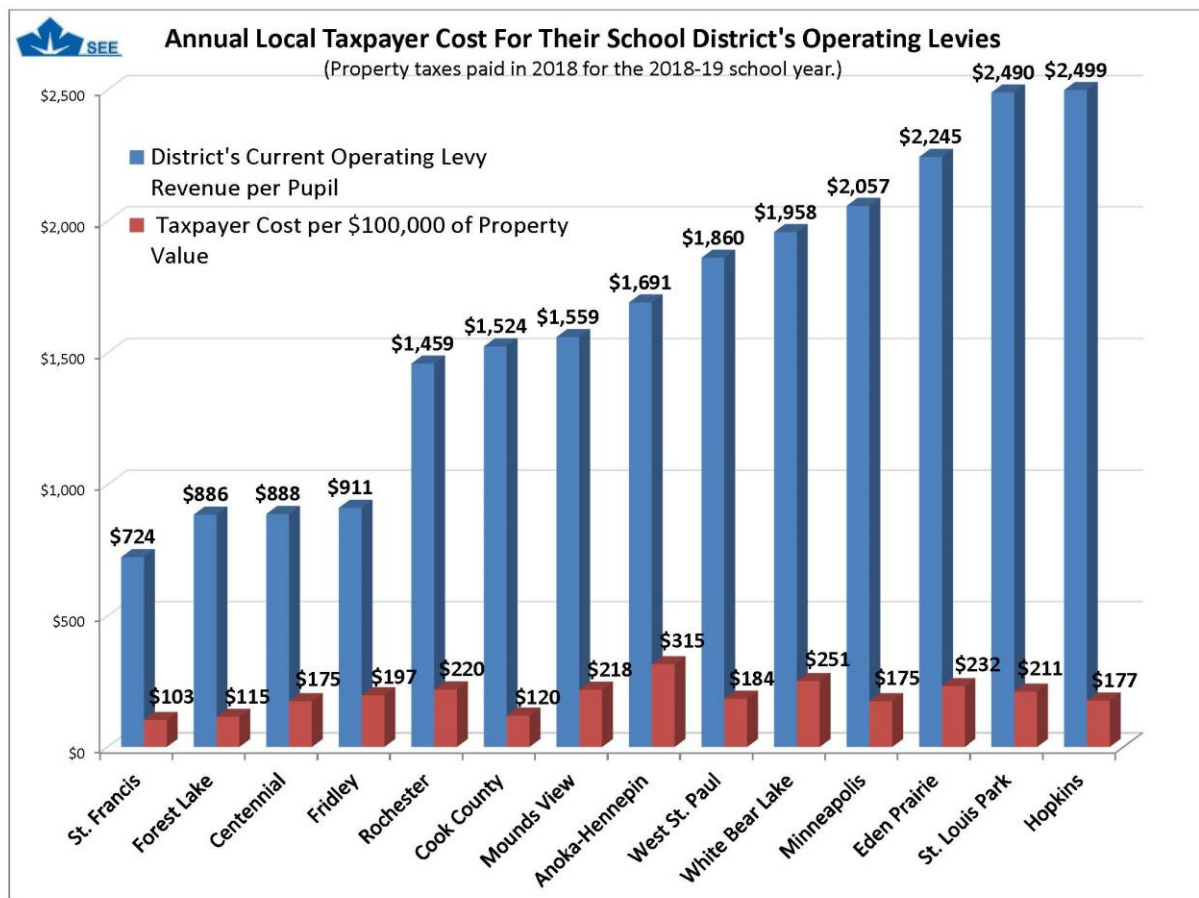


We are working on updating the data and charts on the SEE website for the 2018-19 school year.

SEE's [Capitol Pizza video](#) clearly explains the loss of educational opportunities students experience based merely on where they live due to the high cost of school levies in many school districts. SEE produced the chart below to show how it plays out in real life. You can find this chart specific to your SEE district [here on the SEE website](#). If you would like a custom chart created for a list of specific districts, please don't hesitate to contact Deb Griffiths at deb.griffiths@schoolsforequity.org.



The annual cost to the local taxpayer for a school levy dollar varies greatly across the state. School districts with high levels of property wealth have a distinct advantage in passing school levies because the larger property tax base, usually including significant commercial and industrial property, lowers the tax burden for the local homeowner and business owner.

When the cost is high, low-property wealth communities are unable to generate higher value school levies, which results in less funding and loss of educational opportunities for the children in these districts. The quality of a child's education should not be dependent on where they live!

In the above chart, the blue column is the district's current operating levies funded through local property taxes. The red column indicates the resulting annual cost for the local taxpayer per \$100,000 of home or business property value. For example, in a SEE district like Centennial, the local taxpayer voted to pay \$175 a year in school property taxes if they live in a \$100,000 home (it would be twice as much if they live in a \$200,000 home, the calculation is linear). This effort by Centennial taxpayers generates \$888 per pupil. However,

Minneapolis taxpayer pay the same amount, but their schools receive **over twice as much** revenue, over \$1,100 more per pupil. Taxpayers in Hopkins pay just \$2 more than Centennial taxpayers, while generating almost **three times more** revenue for their schools. Obviously, Centennial school district is unable to provide as many valuable opportunities for their students such as small class sizes, strong music and arts programs, classroom technology, academic interventions for struggling students, and advanced placement and other rigorous classes.

Back in the early 1990s, the legislature took significant measures to make the cost of a levy dollar uniform across the state. The taxpayer cost in low-property wealth districts was reduced through the equalization program. However, the success of equalization has eroded over time due to lack of ongoing adequate state funding.

Reducing this disparity will be one of SEE's priorities for the 2019 legislative session. You can help by bringing this information to your state legislators. In addition, you can attend candidate forums to discuss this problem with the candidates that want to represent your local schools.

Visit schoolsforequity.org for more information.

Note: The district's operating levies includes any revenue from the discretionary \$300 board-approved levy and voter-approved referendum. Discretionary board-approved local option revenue up to \$424 is also included as all this revenue is from local property taxes dedicated to the district's general operating fund.