

Minnesota's Educational Opportunity Gap

Where do you live?

School District	The Annual Cost to the Residential and Business Taxpayer for a \$2,387 per Pupil School Levy per \$100,000 Assessed Property Value.
Hopkins	\$169
Cook County	\$188
St. Louis Park	\$202
Minneapolis	\$203
West St. Paul	\$236
Eden Prairie	\$247
Lake Superior	\$286
Faribault	\$415
Northfield	\$449
Tri-City United	\$464
Belle Plaine	\$467
Owatonna	\$517
New Prague	\$528
Medford	\$838

State funding for E-12 public schools has not kept pace with rising expectations, additional mandates and annual inflation. Districts rely on school levies just to maintain current programming or reduce budget cuts. The state allows school districts to raise additional revenue - \$1,963 per pupil in voter-approved referendum (up to \$300 per pupil of this can be board-approved) and \$424 per pupil in board-approved local optional revenue for a total of \$2,387 per pupil. The cost to the local taxpayer for these school levies is based on the individual property wealth of the school district. Without significant commercial and industrial development to expand the tax base, taxpayers in low-property wealth districts pay much more than taxpayers in high-property wealth school districts to provide the same amount of levy revenue for their local schools. Taxpayers in low-property wealth districts struggle to afford such large school levies, which creates considerable funding inequities among school districts. This unfair tax advantage for high-wealth districts results in significant disparities in educational opportunities for students based merely upon where they live. (2018-19)