

SEE Days at the Capitol Guide

The [2017 district schedule](#) for the *SEE Day at the Capitol* visits.

I want to thank you for taking the time to advocate for your students and their schools on this day at the Capitol! I will be your host for the day. Following is my contact information:



Deb Griffiths
email: deb.griffiths@schoolsforequity.org
Cell: 612-309-0089

Where will we meet at the Capitol?

Meet me in the Transportation Building at 9:45 a.m. If you come in from the parking lot side, I will be waiting straight ahead in the lobby. If you come in the other side (nearest the Capitol) by the cafeteria, come up the stairs to the lobby. If you find yourself running late, just call me on my cell phone to let me know (number listed above).

How do you get to the Capitol?

The Capitol address is 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Here are [directions \(see question 2\)](#) from the nearby 35E and 94 interstates.

Where can you park?

Metered parking lots surround the Capitol and will say Public Parking. Lot F, Lot AA, Lot H, and Lot Q are good options. Here is a map of the [public parking locations](#). The meters take \$1 and \$5 bills, quarters and Visa/Master Cards. The cost is \$1.50 per hour.

What is expected of you?

Well . . . just show up! Legislators want to hear from their constituents (that is you!) Face-to-face interaction is the most effective communication. Your mere presence will show your legislators that quality public education is very important to you. You can talk as little or as much as you would like. I have no problem filling in any silences!

What are the issues?

Your school district is part of the SEE association of 59 Minnesota school districts. Equity and adequacy in education funding and policy are our core issues. SEE's vision is that all students must have equal access to a high quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota. *Urge you to watch the Capitol Pizza* video below. Also, you can review [SEE's 2017 Legislative Platform](#) to learn the issues. This will give a background on the issues we will raise with the legislators.

Watch SEE's Capitol Pizza Video



Learn more from [frequently asked questions](#).
Find out specific information on your SEE district!
See [a listing of SEE districts](#) with links to additional material.

Some of the issues we will discuss include:

- A minimum 3% increase to the basic formula for each of the next two years to provide additional funding for rising costs and increased expectations.
- Making bonds for new or improved schools facilities and referendum for operating expenses more affordable in low property wealth districts.

What is the goal of the Capitol visit?

Legislators need to know that maintaining high-quality local public schools is a top priority for their constituents. We want them to hear from you so they can take the message back to leadership. The legislature must fully fund mandates, reduce the education opportunity gap, and provide taxpayer fairness in education funding.

What is the plan for the day?

Several parents and community members, perhaps school board members and superintendents, from a number of select SEE school districts are expected. Groups last year numbered between five and fifteen. We will visit as many of the districts' legislators as possible. I will make appointments, which usually last about 15 minutes. If we can't get office appointments, we can ask legislators to come out to talk with us if they are in committee meetings or session. Schedules are very fluid at the Capitol and plans can change very unexpectedly. We will just be flexible.

What about lunch?

Depending on the appointment schedule, we may finish before lunch or need to stop for refreshments. The Transportation Building has a cafeteria. You can bring a lunch or purchase one in the cafeteria.

What time will the day end?

We will probably wrap up around 2:00 p.m., maybe earlier.

I hope this answers any question you may have. If not, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email address and phone number are above.