



ISSUE: Equal Share of Excess Operating Levy Funding

In addition to state aids, traditional public-school districts have the option to increase local funding for education beyond those funds by asking voters to approve *excess operating levies* through a referendum. If successful, voter-approved excess operating levies make a huge difference in providing schools with the funding needed to provide programs and services for students.

Chartered public-schools are currently not eligible to receive funding from voter-approved excess operating levies, even though the parents of students who attend chartered public-school pay property taxes. Without an equal share of excess operating funding, the funding for students who attend chartered public-schools is inequitable. This limits the ability of a chartered public-school to provide needed programs and services for its students.

For example: In 2018, Saint Paul voters approved a ten-year levy to generate an additional \$475 per student each year.

This means that the over 16,000 public-school students who attend chartered public schools located in the City of Saint Paul receive at least \$475 a year less for their public-school education. Over the ten-year period that is **\$4,750 less per student** who attends a chartered public-school. Over that decade it means **\$77 million dollars less funding** for the education of those 16,000 students.

There are over 65,000 students attending chartered public-schools in Minnesota.

STATUTORY REFERENCE: MN Statutes 126C.10, 124E.09

POLICY SOLUTION: Equal Share of Excess Levy Funding for Charter Schools

- Provide chartered public schools students with equal excess operating levy funding that matches the amount that a student attending a traditional school district receives.

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