

## Call to Action – PHONE CALLS NEEDED TODAY ON MN EDUCATION FUNDING! March 21,2017 UPDATED

At 6:30pm tonight, the MN House Ways and Means committee is considering CS-RES01 – which sets the limit on net expenditures for the 2018-2019 biennium. The expenditure caps on education are very concerning – our students and our schools need YOU to let members of Ways and Means know that before they vote! Once these caps are approved by Ways and Means, they will be very difficult to change in the Legislature.

### Take these few simple steps to support education funding:

1. Do you need to find out who your state legislator are? Use this quick way – enter your address, and you will get your results. [WHO REPRESENTS ME?](#)
2. Is your local legislator on Ways and Means?  
[Click here for the Committee List and email and phone numbers.](#)
1. Make a phone call or send an email - Sample message for your legislator:  
The expenditure targets for education in CS-RES01 are unacceptable for our children, our schools and Minnesota’s long term success. Please support education targets that match or exceed the Governor’s proposal to increase the general education basic formula by 2% for each year of the biennium. At these targets, local school districts will be forced to dismiss teachers and support staff, increase class sizes, narrow curriculums, and cut after-school activities. This kind of target does not get us closer to the well-rounded education Minnesota students need; does not provide the resources essential to closing our achievement gaps; and does not support the development of a college- and career-ready, highly-educated workforce that supports a strong Minnesota economy.

### FAQ on CS-RES01 and Education Funding

CLICK HERE for [Text of the bill](#) House CS-RES01

Comparison of education targets	Dollars in Millions	% Increase over last biennium
Governor’s Budget	\$371	2.0%
House CS-RES01	\$258	1.5%
Senate targets announced 3/17/17	\$300	1.6%
SF 1556 - Education funding basic formula allowance increase and appropriation (Senator Carla Nelson)	-	2.0%
Projected rate of inflation over next biennium	\$455	2.5%

### What is the general education basic formula?

From the Governor’s Budget –

- “The general education basic formula is the primary means by which the state funds its constitutional duty to provide a general and uniform, thorough and efficient system of public schools. Operating costs for school districts and charter schools increase annually due to inflation. School districts and charter schools need annual increases in general operating funds to maintain quality education programs for students and close the achievement gap.
- Over the past decade, increases in the general education basic formula have lagged behind the rate of inflation, causing school districts to rely more heavily on voter approved referendum levies to maintain basic education programs.
- The general education formula is the largest component of Minnesota’s school funding system, accounting for 63 percent of total state E-12 education aid for FY 2017.”

### History of education funding in Minnesota

- Minnesota’s share of school funding hasn’t kept pace with inflation. In real dollars, we’re spending 10 percent less today than in 2003.
- According to the North Star Policy Institute, 93% percent of Minnesota’s 332 school districts will receive less in per pupil aid in 2017 than in 2003.

- According to the Association for Metropolitan School Districts, the basic funding formula would be \$550 per pupil higher if it had simply kept pace with inflation since 2003.
- From Schools for Equity in Education:

