



Where Do You Live?

Minnesota's Educational Opportunity Gap

The unfair tax advantage in high-property wealth communities results in significant disparities in educational opportunities for students based merely upon where they live. State funding for E-12 public schools has not kept pace with annual inflation, mandates, and rising expectations. Districts rely on school operating levies to maintain current programming or reduce budget cuts. 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, the tax burden for school levies falls heavily on the residential or small business owners. Taxpayers in low-property wealth districts struggle to support significant school levies, creating considerable funding inequities among school districts.

School District	*Annual Taxpayer Cost for the Same Levy Amount
Cook County	\$338
Eden Prairie	\$338
Northland Community	\$353
Hopkins	\$442
St. Louis Park	\$479
West St. Paul	\$562
Winona Area	\$632
Red Wing	\$705
Rochester	\$833
Lake City	\$1,008
Fillmore Central	\$1,239
Owatonna	\$1,408
Austin	\$1,873

*The graph shows the annual cost for a residential or business taxpayer in a \$300,000 home or business to generate \$2,929.00 per pupil in school operating revenue for their local schools.

State law allows communities to raise an additional \$2,929.00 per pupil in operating revenue for their schools through local property taxes, which is up to \$2,205.00 per pupil in a voter-approved operating referendum and \$724 per pupil in board-approved local optional revenue.

(Data is for property taxes paid in 2024 for school funding in the 2024-25 school year.)