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	$311
Northland Community	$327
Hopkins	$431
St. Louis Park	$481
Stillwater Area	$545
West St. Paul	$557
Eden Prairie	$672
Mounds View	$807
Osseo	$810
Central	$831
St. Cloud	$909
Monticello	$997
Big Lake	**$1,171**

The graph shows the maximum annual taxpayer cost for a $300,000 home or business to generate $3,024 per pupil in the 2025–26 school year (taxes payable in 2025). The $3,024 per-pupil figure is used in statewide comparisons to highlight disparities in school funding capacity. This amount includes rounding and may reflect additional costs such as administrative fees or slight variations in district formulas. State law allows communities to raise up to $2,929 per pupil in operating revenue through local property taxes—up to $2,205 per pupil in a voter-approved operating referendum and $724 per pupil in board-approved Local Optional Revenue.