

PUBLIC PUBLIC Priorities 2019 Legislative

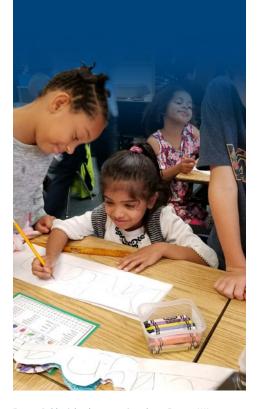
Our mission is to inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.

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Dr. Gary Cohn



Provide equitable and ample funding for basic education

- Fully fund special education. Increase per-student special education funding (via the excess cost multiplier) and reduce the threshold to access safety net funding. While the special education cap was increased to cover more students (from 12.7 to 13.5 percent), it does not address the per-student shortfall.
- Improve school safety and security. Increase staffing allocations to include funding for uniformed school resource officers in secondary schools, school security staff in all schools, nurses, and behavioral health counselors.
- Fully fund the School Employees Benefits Board. Implement practical eligibility thresholds for part-time employees; e.g., substitutes and coaches, and ensure that adequate funding is provided to cover all program costs for all eligible K-12 basic education staff members.
- Do not reduce established high cost-of-living regionalization factor. Districts across the state have completed a very difficult bargaining year, some after strikes. Local districts in highly competitive areas are dependent upon current state funding. Do not reduce the 24 percent factor to 18 percent.
- Reinstate a statewide salary mix factor. Reestablish the state staff mix factor to equitably fund basic education salaries based upon teacher experience. The staff mix factor was implemented to address the state Supreme Court's 1977 Doran decision.
- **Delay K-3 class size compliance.** Implement compliance after the state provides ample funding for construction of classrooms across the state.

Revise the levy formula to mitigate excessive cuts for many districts

Modify the levy cap to provide equitable access to local support. Develop a more equitable and stable levy formula with a per pupil cap of \$3,500 plus a growth factor.

Fund school construction and approve simple-majority for bonds

- **Send voters a constitutional amendment.** Change the requirement to approve school district bonds. The 60 percent super-majority requirement should be changed to a simple-majority requirement.
- Update the state's construction funding formulas. Fund the actual cost of the schools needed to serve our students. Increase the square-foot-per-student allocation and increase the cost per-square-foot allocation to ensure the state funds the actual cost of school construction.