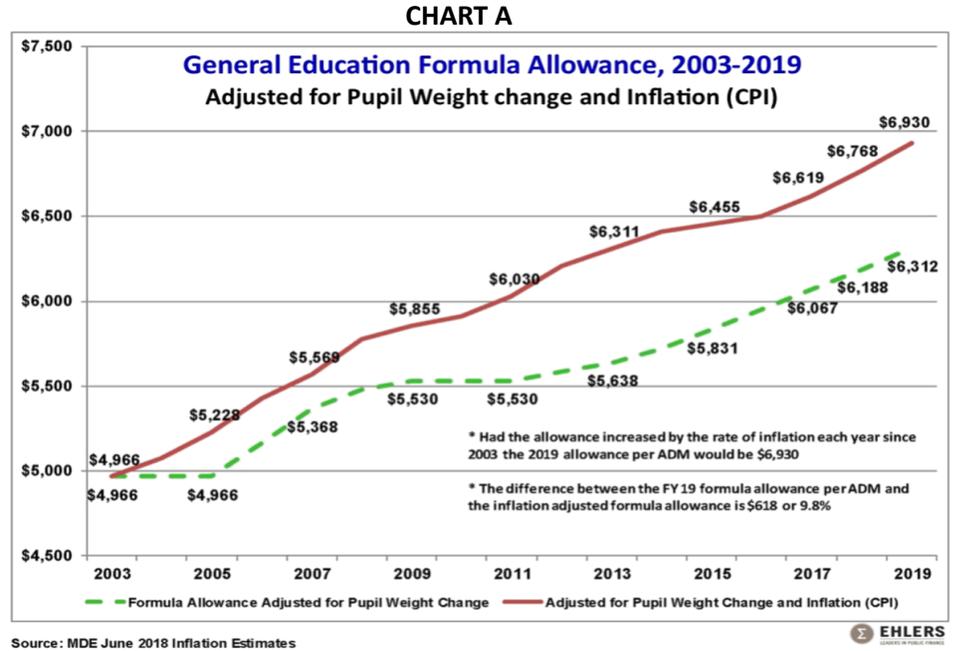


EXCELLENCE IS OUR STANDARD

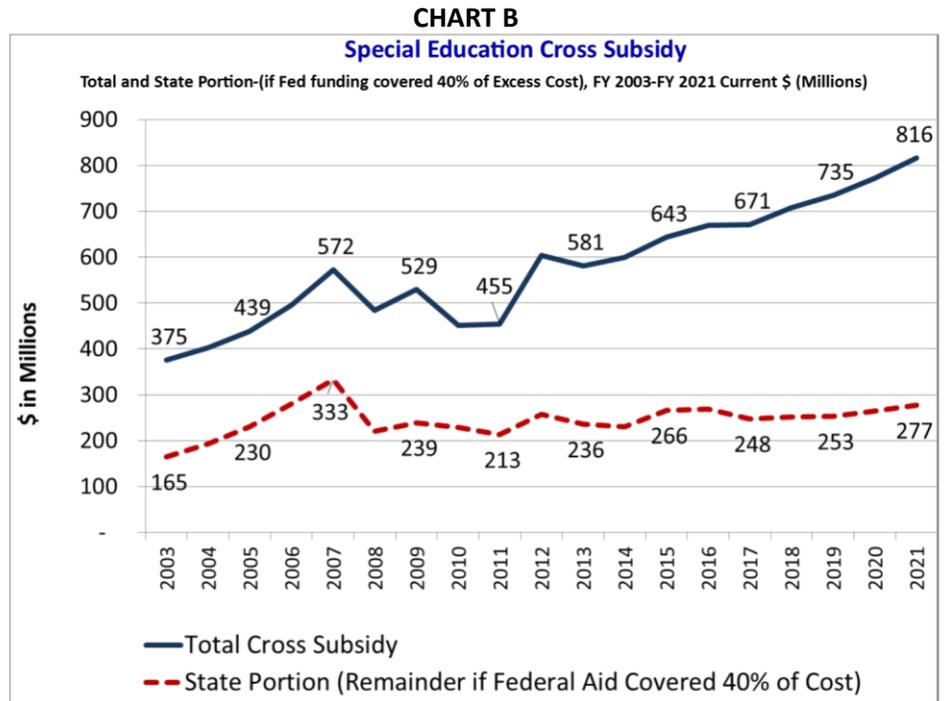
Robbinsdale Area Schools is committed to ensuring every student graduates career, articulated skilled trades and college ready. To support academic achievement and create a world-class workforce, we urge the Governor and Legislators to address the following critical issues:

Stabilize Education Funding

Increase the basic education formula revenue by 3% per year in the next biennium and link the formula to inflation. The basic education formula is the district's primary source of operating funds and accounts for 53.5% of Robbinsdale Area Schools' general fund revenue. Increases in the basic education formula have not kept up with inflation. In fact, the basic education formula would be \$6,930 per pupil or 9.8% higher if it had kept up with inflation since 2003. Adequate, reliable and predictable funding is essential to provide programs that ensure every student graduates career, articulated skilled trades and college ready. (Please reference Chart A to the right.)

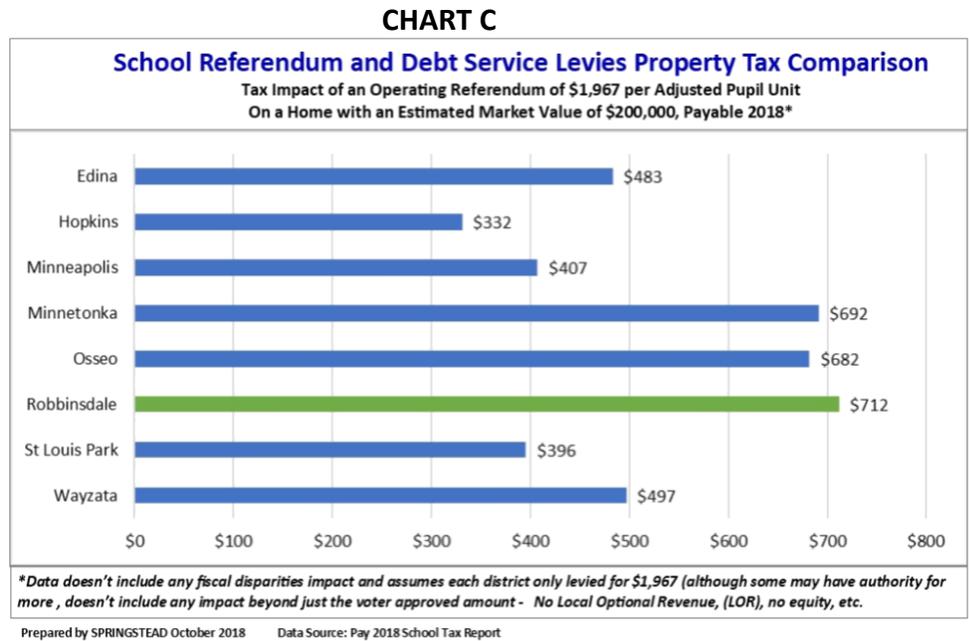


Increase special education funding to eliminate the cross-subsidy. This year, Robbinsdale Area Schools will divert \$15.5 million from the general fund to subsidize unfunded special education costs. The chronic underfunding of special education services stresses the budgets of school districts and reduces educational opportunities for all students. (See Chart B to the right.)



Institute Taxpayer Equity

Increase operating referendum and debt service equalization to provide greater equity in education funding. Property tax levies play a crucial role in funding education programs and facilities. The referendum and debt service levies have widely different impacts on local property taxpayers depending on the property tax wealth of the school district. For example, homeowners of comparable \$200,000 homes in Robbinsdale Area Schools pay more than twice as much as neighboring Hopkins School District homeowners to raise the same \$1,967. (See comparison Chart C on right.)



Continue Voluntary Pre-K and Expand School-Based Preschool

Permanently fund Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) and expand access to school-based preschool. Fully fund all required program components to close the achievement, opportunities and school-readiness gaps. School-based early learning programs provide the highest likelihood of success in preparing children to enter kindergarten with the skills, behavior and knowledge needed to progress and be successful.

School Safety

Increase the maximum Safe Schools Levy to offset the growing costs of school communication technology and expand the permitted uses allowing school districts to enhance cyber security.

Expand the allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue to allow school districts to enhance safety through security modifications to building, including remodeling and additions to existing space.

Increase fiscal and statutory support for school-based mental health interventions to ensure student academic success.

Fully fund school safety grants.

Academic Excellence for All 

Questions or additional information contact
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Approved by School Board on 12.17.18