



School-funding proposals to fight for

The proposals of the Governor's Task Force on Educational Excellence, if made law, would help children by putting new resources into our schools. Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster went the next step and included several of the Task Force recommendations in her 2005-07 budget. In many areas, she actually asked for more resources.

Urge state leaders to include the following in 2005-07 state budget:

- **Cost-out: \$100,000**

The Task Force recommends a "cost-out" study to define what staff, classes, facilities and materials are needed for a sound, basic education and how much these will cost. *The State Superintendent did not include this proposal in her budget.*

- **Aid for small, rural school districts: \$42 million +**

Especially to help rural school districts where transportation is a major cost, the State Superintendent recommends additional categorical aid for busing children. In addition, she has recommended a \$300 per-pupil program based on sparsity. *The Task Force recommended \$60 million.*

- **Aid for students with disabilities: \$84 million**

The State Superintendent recommends \$74 million in increases to the special education categorical aid and a new \$10 million categorical aid program for children whose disabilities are high-cost but low-incidence. *The Task Force recommended \$56 million.*

- **Aid for early education and students in poverty: \$59.2 million**

The State Superintendent has proposed an extra \$55 million for those schools already in the SAGE program and \$1.2 million for new districts to enter the program in 2006-07. Additionally, she has recommended \$3 million as an incentive to districts to implement four-year-old kindergarten programs. *The Task Force recommended \$41 million.*

- **Aid for English-language learners: \$42 million**

Because the state's immigrant population has grown rapidly, the State Superintendent recommends more state aid to cover the cost of educating all students with limited English, including increasing the present categorical aid and adding a new aid package to help those students not now covered. *The Task Force recommended \$24 million.*

You can make a difference

This fall, the governor will prepare his budget proposal for 2005-07, guided in part by recommendations from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The Task Force recommendations detailed above need to be in the budget. Send that message to Gov. Jim Doyle.

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