

# How can the state measure all kids on the same academic scale WHEN STATE ACADEMIC FUNDING IS NOT EQUAL?


## WE HAVE A DREAM FOR

- Education funding in Minnesota to ensure equal access and opportunity for ALL students regardless of what community they live in
- Minnesota legislators to put ALL Minnesota kids first and honor their primary constitutional responsibilities of supporting a “general and uniform system of public schools”

## WE HAVE A PROBLEM


- The state property tax system penalizes communities for having more residential property than commercial property
- To generate the same amount of funding for their schools, communities with less commercial properties, like SSP, could pay nearly 4 times more than taxpayers in their neighboring communities who have more businesses
- Home ownership is not an indication of ability to pay taxes

### WEST ST. PAUL



**For Example,**  
If a WSP homeowner pays \$10 in school taxes, the WSP school district gets enough money to buy a whole pizza (or more services for their students).

### SOUTH ST. PAUL



**However,**  
Due to the unfair school funding, if a SSP homeowner paid the same \$10 in school taxes, the SSP School District would only be able to buy about 27% of a pizza (thus less services for students).

## Annual Cost per \$100,000 of Operating Referendum Revenue for a \$250,000 Home



## WE NEED A SOLUTION TO

- Increase equalization factors for referendum revenue
- Tie equalization factors to inflation so they will increase as property values increase (similar to the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance revenue)
- Include enhanced operating referendum equalization into the tax bill to provide property tax relief for many taxpayers and help level the playing field for school districts.