

**COMMUNITY
OF SAINTS**
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



April 1, 2025

Senator Mary K. Kunesch, Chair
3209 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jason Rarick, Republican Lead
3413 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesch and Senator Rarick,

Thank you for your service to the state and your constituents. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed elimination of aids to nonpublic students and nonpublic pupil transportation services included in Governor Walz's budget recommendations to the legislature.

I have the honor to serve as principal of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School, a nonpublic school located in West St. Paul, educating students in West St. Paul, the West Side of St. Paul, and surrounding communities for more than 100 years.

Of the 196 K-8 students we serve at Community of Saints, 75% qualify for free or reduced lunch; Approximately 85% are students of color and 47% of students are multilingual learners. Our students and their families rely heavily on these services.

For more than 50 years, these services have provided equitable support to students, regardless of their educational setting. They advance the principle that education is for the common good of all students and families in Minnesota.

I urge you to oppose the elimination of these essential services. These programs will disproportionately impact the students and families at Community of Saints.

Thank you for your time and consideration in ensuring fair and equitable treatment for students and families who choose a nonpublic education.

Sincerely,

Bridget Kramer
Principal

CC: Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee