

# Paul Thissen

## State Representative District 63A



## ISSUE BRIEF: 2006–2007, E–12 EDUCATION FUNDING FACTS

Education is one of the largest and most important investments that our state government makes. After flat funding during the 2003 budget cycle, the legislature came back in 2005 and passed significant increases. Below, you will find information of what the education bill means for both Minnesota and Minneapolis.

### OVERVIEW

#### *Positive News*

- The 2005 education legislation increases the per-pupil formula by 4% in 2006 and 4% in 2007 providing \$800 million in new state education funding over two years
- The package includes \$11 million statewide for gifted and talented student programs
- The legislation provides the largest per-pupil increase in total state aid dollars since 1990.

#### *But Keep in Mind*

- \$139 million (about 17%) of the new money is available only in the form of local property tax levies. This was a compromise in order to secure a higher amount of state funding
- Adjusting for inflation, school funding from the state as a whole has only slightly increased since 1984.

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR MINNEAPOLIS

- Minneapolis Public schools will see an overall increase of \$37.1 million in state aid over the next two years; this means \$11.8 million this year (\$277 more per pupil) and \$25.2 million (\$618 per pupil) in the 2006-07 school year. These numbers do not include revenues from the new alternative compensation program.
- Nonetheless, total revenues for the Minneapolis Schools decreased from 04-05 to 05-06 by \$5.2 million. For next year, the district revenues are projected to be about \$225,000 lower than this year. The reductions are due largely to declining enrollments.
- Included in the increase are \$2.4 million for special education and \$593,000 for early childhood education during 2006 and 2007.

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