



# Capitol Contact by State Representative Steve Simon

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## The Governor's Education Budget

The governor's budget recommendation includes a 2.5% increase in funding for K-12 Education. This proposed increase does not acknowledge inflation. And, it clearly does not make up for past cuts.

Dear Friend:

My highest priority this year is to increase K-12 funding for our public schools. The cuts of the past few years have hit Hopkins and St. Louis Park particularly hard. Both districts have cut millions of dollars from their budgets over the past three years. There is no more "fat" to cut. If the next state budget fails to keep pace with inflation in education, our schools will sustain cuts that directly affect kids in the classroom. Class sizes will increase and educational options will decrease. I will do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen.

**IMPACT ON HOPKINS AND ST. LOUIS PARK SCHOOLS**

*Under the governor's proposal, both Hopkins and St. Louis Park face deep and damaging cuts.*

<b>The Hopkins School District, on the recommendations of parent groups, would impose the following adjustments:</b>	<b>The St. Louis Park School District would be forced to increase class sizes. For example, Peter Hobart Elementary School would experience these average class size increases:</b>
Fewer Learning Resource Teachers for elementary school students who need additional help.	Kindergarten class size increase from 21.1 to 25.4
Fewer teachers in the junior highs and high school.	First grade class size increase from 21.1 to 25.4
Fewer course offerings.	Second grade class size increases from 23.4 to 29.3
Increased user fees across the board.	Third grade class size increase from 27 to 33.7

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**Steve  
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## A Better Way To Help Our Schools

The governor's education funding proposal is a disappointment. That's why I support a solution, sponsored both by Republicans and Democrats, which increases K-12 funding by up to \$750 million over the next two years. I also support a state budget plan that would, overall, accommodate an allocation of more resources for our schools. Additionally, I support accountability measures like the alternative compensation programs that the Hopkins School District has already implemented.

Ultimately, our schools need significantly more resources to sustain the excellence that draws so many residents to our communities.