



Legislative Update  
Review Governor Education Plan  
MREA Priority Issues

February 5, 2015

# Session Status

- One month into a 5-month session
- Governor's budget plan is blueprint for the budget debate
- Updated budget forecast due at the end of February.
- Legislature makes 'counter offer' by the end of April
- Session must end on May 18

# Governor's Budget Breakdown

- **\$373 million** in overall E-12 spending
- 1% and 1% on the formula
  - \$58 and \$59
  - \$174 million
- Early Learning
  - .5 APU for 1.0 ADM in Pre-K,
  - School Readiness rolled into this
  - 850 minimum hours + 200 in summer
  - District match
  - \$106 million in FY '17, Tails
  - Tax Credit for child care costs \$100 million

# Governor's Budget Breakdown

- Eliminate Head Start waiting list - \$19 million
- Expand Reading Corp - \$15 million
- Expand PBIS - \$4.6 million
- Lengthen ELL to 7 years - \$7.9 million
- Expand Success for Future - \$4.4 million
- Regional Centers of Excellence - \$6 million
- Help Me Grow - \$2 million
- Free Breakfast pre-K, grades 1-3 - \$28 million

# What's Missing?

- Facility Fallout: Deferred Maintenance inequity
  - \$2.79 per square foot in large metro districts
  - \$0.58 per square foot for everyone else
  - Increased equalization
- TD&E Funding for non-QComp districts
- Formula dollars that exceed inflation
- Increasing supply of teachers
  - From Loan forgiveness to wrap around Fed programs

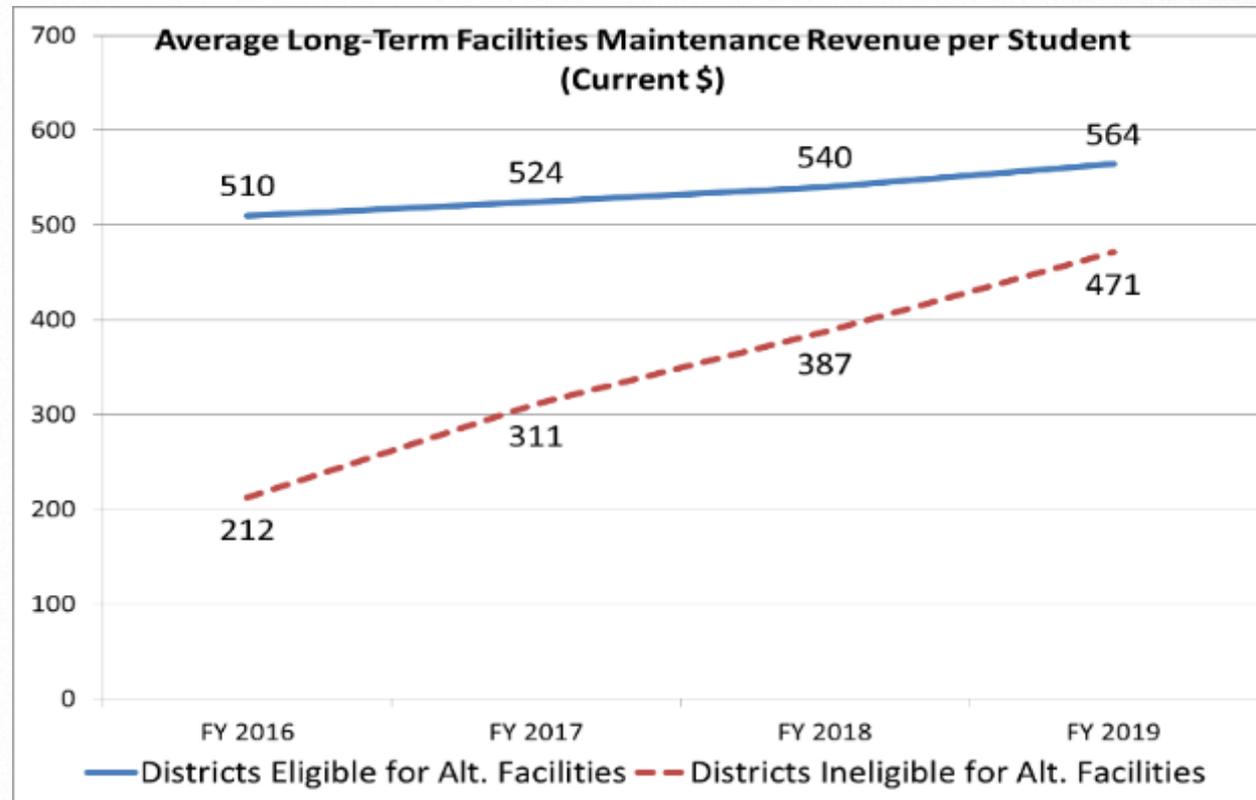
# Political Dynamics

- 3 bodies: Governor, Senate & House
  - 2 parties
  - Rural-metro
  - Entire legislature is up for election in 2016, which is a Presidential election
  - What are their respective priorities? Senate DFL press conference, House GOP press conferences, etc
- The “Perpich” way
  - Lead, don’t follow
  - Everyone bring something to the Conference Committee table

# MREA's Top Priority

## Fix Facility Fallout

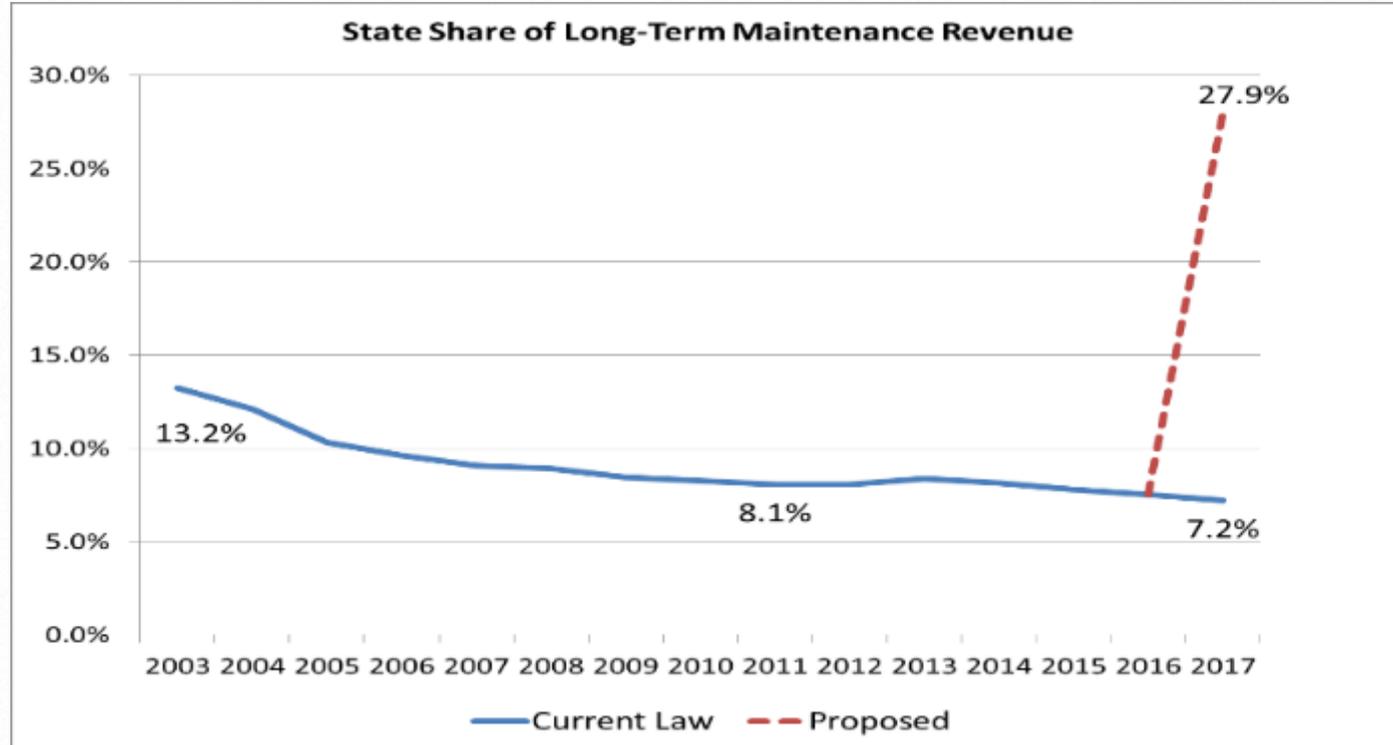
Gradually close the revenue gap between districts currently **eligible** and **ineligible** for alternative facilities revenue.



# State Facility Task Force Recommendations

Improved  
equalization  
to **\$8,281**.  
(Based on FY15)

Up from  
current  
equalizing  
factor of  
**\$5,965**.



# Facility Fallout

## Key Questions and Considerations

- Will the legislature provide school board levy authority to address deferred maintenance?
  - MREA supports SF 76
- House, one acre and garage—A disaster or opportunity?
  - Without equalization, a disaster for residents and small business
  - With equalization, a potential opportunity
  - MREA analyzing to see if there is a way to move from ANTC to RMV or create a 3<sup>rd</sup> tax base for facilities that would be ANTC – production Ag
  - The politics are very different since Nov. 4, 2014

# Early Childhood Programs

- Research shows 16:1 return on investment.
- Six major programs in Minnesota.
  - Headstart
  - Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
  - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
  - School Readiness
  - Early Learning Scholarships
  - Child Care Assistance
- Serving about 218,000 children.
- Investing \$1 billion a biennium.
- See report: <http://mnrea.org/earlylearning/>

# Early Learning

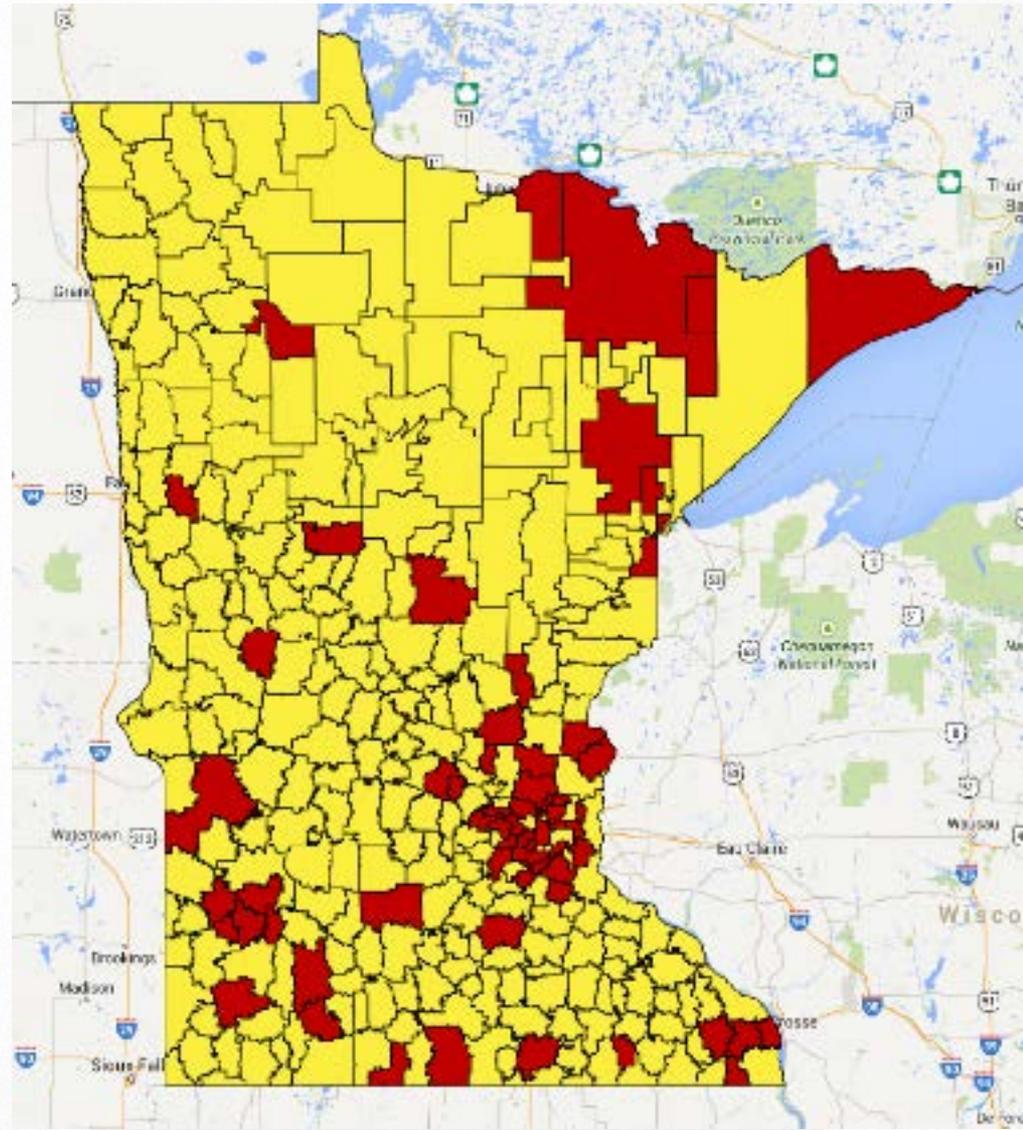
## Key Questions and Considerations

- What working and not working for early learners in your community?
- What is your response to the thought that rural schools should drive the early learning delivery system?
  - What would you need to do it?
  - Can you see a greatly expanded role of school readiness to drive services?
  - How would you align services in your community?
- Watch SF 6 which funds 4 year old Kindergarten

# Teacher Evaluation & Development

## Where We Are

- Addressed 4 times in the 30 years by Legislature
- Only 13% rural districts are in Q comp
- All must implement teacher evaluation law
- \$302 one-time \$'s for non-Q Comp districts
- Task Force aligned the TDE law and ATPPS



# Teacher Availability

## Where We Are

- Teacher shortages in rural Minnesota
  - 2014 survey of 22 Northwest Minnesota school districts with a total of 125 professional openings:
    - 0-2 applicants for any High School Science position
    - 0-2 applicants for any Special Education position
  - Basic Skills Exams still a barrier
- National and Regional Problem
  - Poorly perceived by undergraduates
  - Salaries lower than other developed nations

# Teacher Quality and Availability

## Key Questions and Considerations

- Immediate Actions –remove barriers
  - Use MTLE not to determine licensure, but to describe skills
  - Allow teachers with out-of-state licenses and experience to start teaching in MN under temporary licenses
  - Full licensure by principal evaluation using state standards
- Longer Term Structural Changes—to restore teaching to the valued profession it once was—examples include:
  - Extend state loan forgiveness to wrap around Federal programs
  - Have BOT represent all economic development regions
  - Increase starting salaries—suggestion to districts
    - Consider adding days to teachers in first 3 years
    - Set a goal and advertise it

# Other Issues in 2015 Session

- CTE, Concurrent Enrollment, World's Best Workforce
- Testing
- American Indian Students
- Funding— \$ on the Formula and Special Ed.

# Other Issues in 2015 Session

## CTE, Concurrent Enrollment, World's Best Workforce

- Rural STEM Experiential Learning Cooperative Equipment Purchasing and sharing
- Align standards and HS course requirement better with state workforce needs
- Allow extended time to be used for CTE for any students—need champion who wants to do this with committed chief authors
- Concurrent enrollment, reimbursement, eligibility, teacher qualifications
- Unify World's Best Work Force reporting requirements (MDE)

# Other Issues in 2015 Session

- Testing
  - Test reduction working group recommends dropping Explore, Plan, Compass and HS Science, keeping all MCA's and ACT.
- American Indian students
  - Rural education's biggest gap
  - Extend Success for the Future to all Title VII schools
- Funding— \$ on the Formula and Special Ed.
  - Recovering economy and compensatory dollars

# Action Needed Now

- Leadership beginning to form budget frameworks
- Call for bigger E-12 Target than the Governor's \$373 million. (Sen. Wiger wants \$500 million)
- Get the rural voice included in the debate
- Watch for mandates (Phy Ed)
- There will be an E-12 bill. - Be a part of the process.

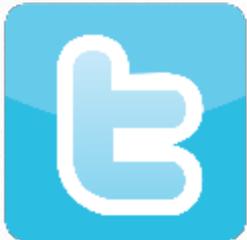
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