



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

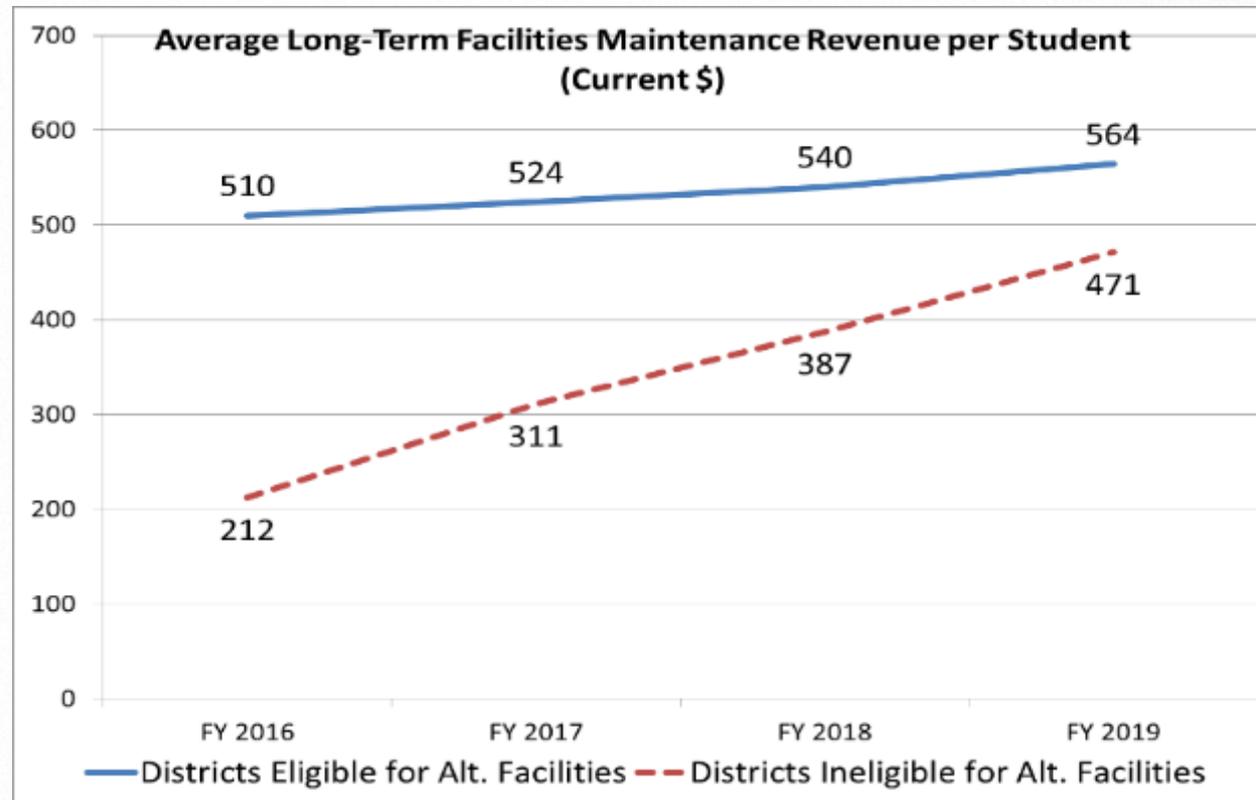
Political Dynamics

- 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

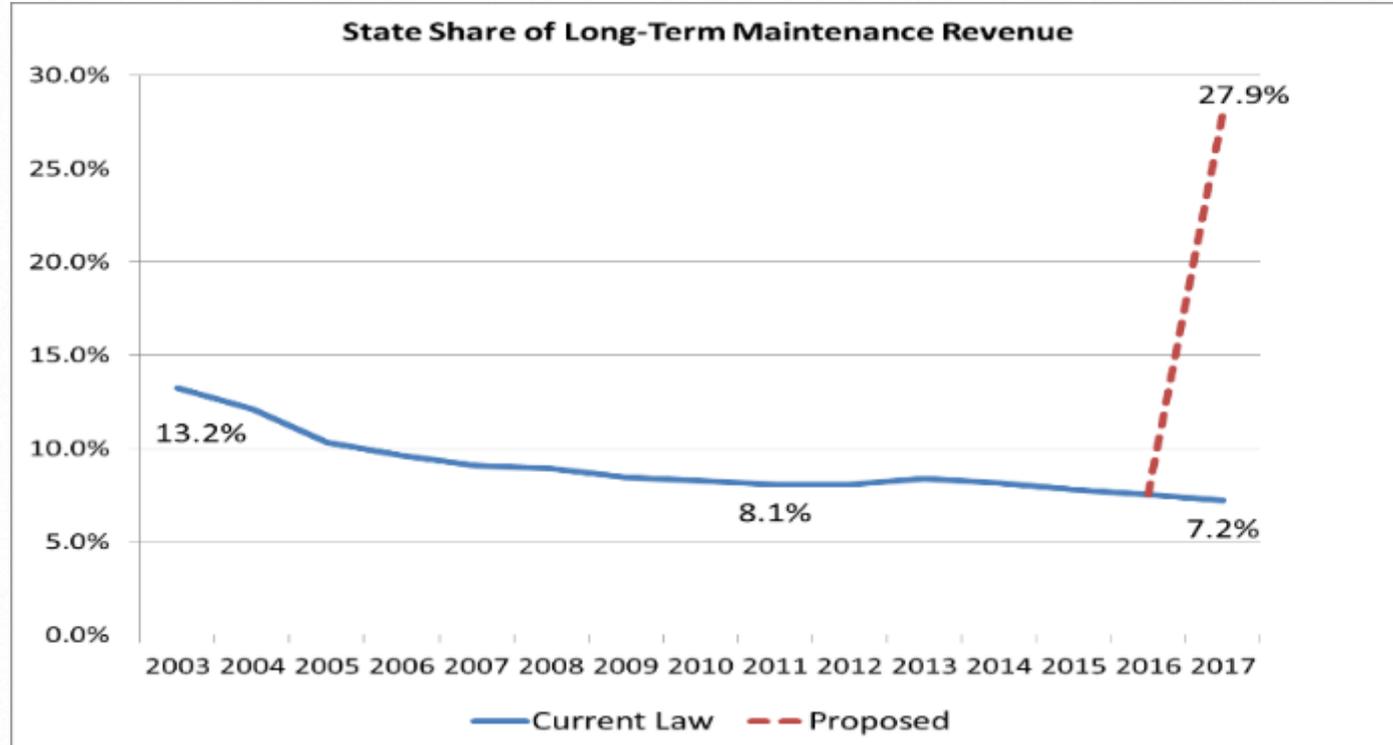
Gradually close the revenue gap between districts currently **eligible** and **ineligible** for alternative facilities revenue.



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 3rd 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

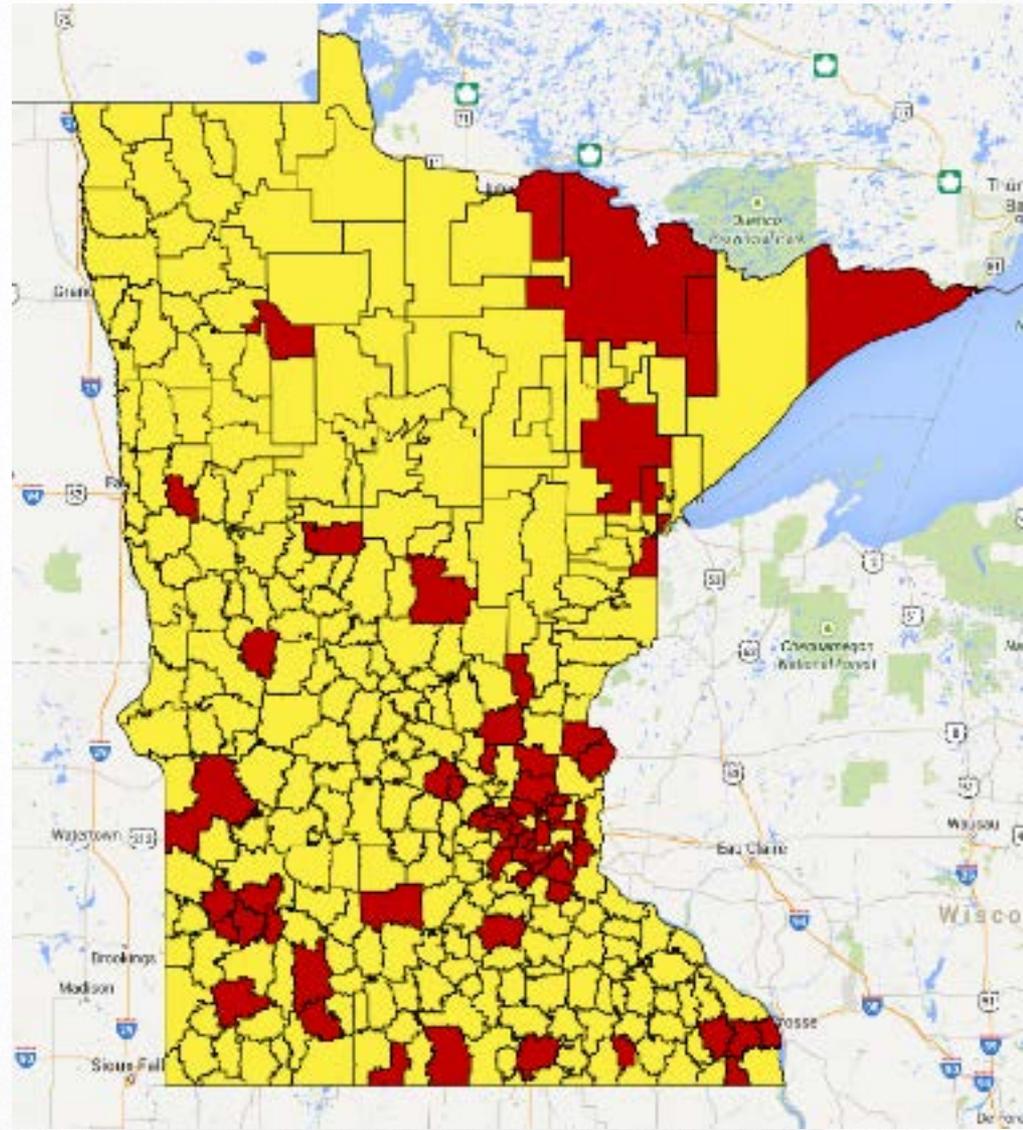
Key Questions and Considerations

- 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.

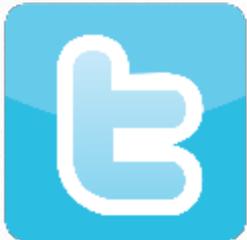
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