

Public Education Funding Forum Quick Facts

- Special education services are mandated by federal and state law, and school districts have few options to control the cost of providing services.
- Revenue comes from the state and federal government, or from a neighboring district where a student lives. Under the new state funding formula, schools don't always receive money from a neighboring district when a child enrolls in their district. There is now a growth cap limit. Once a district hits that limit, funding stops coming in, but expenses do not stop.
- To cover this funding gap, school districts must use general education resources. As the gap continues to widen, less general education resources are available to meet the challenges of educating 21st century learners.
- Approximately 137 out of 345 districts reached the growth limit for the 2016 fiscal year.
- A combination of the growth limit, a change in the tuition rates, and separating from the Special Education Cooperative costs Monticello approximately \$800,000 of aid on an annual basis.
- Several organizations within the education industry have recognized this lack of funding. The Minnesota School Board Association recently asked all districts in the state to approve two resolutions asking the state and federal government to fully fund special education services. Monticello is asking that the growth limit is removed and school districts are prorated evenly based upon special education costs.
- Public citizens can help! The best way to inspire change in the way the state funds special education is for constituents to call and write their legislators.
- Despite the special education funding issues, Monticello is more committed than ever to being the standard of excellence for Every Kid, Every Day. We are providing more opportunities at every level than ever before, including:
 - STEM at all levels, starting with kindergarten
 - An ever-increasing list of College in Schools offerings that helps to prepare kids for the next level, while saving families thousands of dollars
 - Award-winning fine arts programs, and a wide array of other after school activities to meet the needs of our student body
 - Much, much more