



Bits 'n Pieces Spring/Summer2010

For use by School Leaders

Just the Facts

Public investment

- ▶ Public education and roads are the only funding obligations named in the Minnesota State Constitution.
- ▶ In inflation adjusted dollars, state funding for education has grown at an annual rate of 1% since 1996.
- ▶ Comprehensive analysis, including inflation, population growth and the cost of local government indicates the price of government in Minnesota is less than it was a decade ago.
- ▶ Minnesota ranks:
 - 1st in the nation in ACT scores 47th in the nation in students in elementary self-contained classrooms with 23.7 in each class. (compared to the national average of 20.3) -- Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics
 - 46th in the nation in students in elementary departmentalized classrooms with 27.3 in each class. (compared to the national average of 23.7) -- Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics
 - 21st in the nation in secondary students in self-contained classes, with 15.8 students in each class. (compared to the national average of 18.6) -- Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics
 - 43rd in the nation in secondary departmentalized classrooms with 25.5 students per class. (compared to the national average of 23.3) -- Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics
 - 31st in public employees per capita -- U.S. Census of Government Statistics
 - 40th on technology capacity, with a grade of D -- Technology Counts 2009
 - 42nd on total school spending. -- Public Education Finances 2007
 - 37th on total school revenue (all sources) -- Public Education Finances 2007
 - 50th on spending for school administration. -- Public Education Finances 2007

Leadership through different lenses – taken in part from Legacee.com

- ▶ "You cannot manage men into battle. You manage things; you lead people." — Grace Hopper, Admiral, U. S. Navy (retired), Nova (PBS TV), 1986
- ▶ "The superior leader gets things done with very little motion. He imparts instruction not through many words but through a few deeds. He keeps informed about everything but interferes hardly at all. He is a catalyst, and though things would not get done well if he weren't there, when they succeed he takes no credit. And because he takes no credit, credit never leaves him." — Lao Tse, Tao Te Ching
- ▶ "Leadership occurs when one person induces others to work toward some predetermined objectives." — Massie
- ▶ "Leadership is the ability of a superior to influence the behavior of a subordinate or group and persuade them to follow a particular course of action." — Chester Bernard
- ▶ "Leadership is the art of influencing and directing people in such a way that will win their obedience, confidence, respect and loyal cooperation in achieving common objectives." — U. S. Air Force

- ▶ "[leadership] emphasizes cooperation over competition; intuition as well as rational thinking in problem solving, team structures where power and influence are shared within the group... interpersonal competence; and participative decision making." — Marilyn Loden, Founder and president, Loden Associates, *Management Review*, December 1987
- ▶ "The ultimate test of practical leadership is the realization of intended, real change that meets people's enduring needs." — James MacGregor Burns
- ▶ "Managers have subordinates—leaders have followers." — Murray Johannsen
- ▶ "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams quotes (American 6th US President (1825-29), eldest son of John Adams, 2nd US president. 1767-1848)
- ▶ "I am looking for a lot of men who have an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done." — Henry Ford
- ▶ "Leadership is a two-way street, loyalty up and loyalty down. Respect for one's superiors; care for one's crew." — Grace Hopper, Admiral, U. S. Navy (retired), Speech, Washington, D. C., February 1987
- ▶ "As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honor and praise. The next, the people fear; the next, the people hate." — Lao Tse, 604-531 B. C., Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism, *Tao Te Ching*
- ▶ "A manager takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to." — Rosalyn Carter
- ▶ "Leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen." — Alan Keith, Genentech

Public Engagement

- ▶ Debunking Seven Myths About Public Education, National Access Network as seen in parentsunited.org
 - MYTH: The "3Rs" of high school reform are rigor, relevance, and results.
REALITY: They're rigor, relevance, and relationships.
 - MYTH: School district revenue from state and local sources outpaced inflation by 24 percent since 1996.
REALITY: In inflation-adjusted dollars per pupil, total school district revenues have grown at an average rate of about one percent per year since FY 1996.
 - MYTH: The best way to increase prosperity is to decrease taxes.
REALITY: Education is a proven economic driver.

School Leaders' Summer Savvy

- ▶ Assess your public relations efforts and outcomes from the past year and adapt them for the coming year.
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Coffees
 - Public relations plan
- ▶ Catch up on stakeholder communications.
 - Notes of acknowledgement and celebration
 - Meetings with legislators
 - Superintendent/principal open forum sessions or coffees
 - Community service organization meetings that you may have missed during the academic year
- ▶ Define staff expectations and develop staff training on public relations and communications.
- ▶ Host administrative roundtables on public relations and communication issues, ideas and initiatives.
- ▶ Develop a calendar for planned public relations initiatives during the 2010-2011 academic year.

To Do List

- Learn more about *Minnesota's Promise* at www.minnesotaspromise.org

- Learn more about *The Bridge to Higher Learning* at www.massp.org
- Learn more about the New Minnesota Miracle at www.parentsunited.org/NewMNMiracle
- Learn more about community assets for youth at www.search-institute.org
- Learn more about the impact of media on kids at www.mediafamily.org

Quotes and Quotables

Future

- ▶ “For a vibrant and robust system, the state must invest and reinvest in education.” – Minnesota 2020
- ▶ “Without governmental investments – in education, public health and safety, a cleaner environment, public-works infrastructure and economic security – the American way of life would deteriorate, inequality would widen, middle income consumers would have less to spend and invest, and businesses would suffer.” – Dane Smith, president of Growth & Justice, as seen in the Star Tribune, June 7, 2010

Communications

- ▶ “The best leaders constantly seek ways to get their message out, to articulate their vision, and to listen to others’ ideas.” – George Hathaway, *Leadership Secrets from the Executive Office*

Leadership

- ▶ “Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know you trust him.” – Booker T. Washington
- ▶ “He who praises everybody, praises nobody.” – Samuel Johnson

Progress

- ▶ “Restlessness and discontent are the necessities of progress.” – Thomas A. Edison
- ▶ “The art of progress is to preserve order amid change.” – Alfred North Whitehead

These materials are provided by:
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Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association

To request more information contact one of the
above organizations or sprest@arkassoc.com

