



Ann Arbor Public Schools

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Dr. Todd Roberts

Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents, Staff and Community:

As I reported at the January 24th Board Meeting, the deficit facing the State of Michigan's school aid fund will severely impact all school districts in the state. This is due to a structural deficit of close to \$900 million; \$377 million from the school aid fund. A structural deficit means that unless major ongoing changes are made in the way the state operates, the deficit will continue and increase in future years. Simply cutting the budget in a few areas or shuffling money around from fund to fund will not address the ongoing and increasing deficit. Since the passage of Proposal A, 90% of Michigan school districts' funding comes from the State. This legislation also prohibits school districts from going to the local voters to request additional funding for operating expenses.

The State of Michigan is currently proposing a \$224 per pupil decrease in funding in response to the school aid fund deficit. For our district, this equates to a \$3.7 million reduction we will be forced to address during the last months of this year. If this decrease is affected, it is estimated that an additional 50-100 school districts will be forced into bankruptcy, bringing the number of Michigan school districts without enough money to operate to 20%. Fortunately, Ann Arbor Public Schools has money in our fund equity (savings) to cover our cash flow needs for this year. However, the cut in funding now would deepen our deficit next year to approximately \$11 million, compounding in years to come.

The bottom line is that the State has not addressed the deficit nor adequately funded Michigan's schools, and has prevented local school districts from raising the funds it needs to operate. AAPS is doing everything we can to continue our outstanding program, but we need your help! Please contact our state legislators and ask that the State of Michigan guarantee adequate funding for our school districts.

Yours in Education,

J. Todd Roberts
Superintendent

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