

# MPS and MFT agree on many priorities



MPS is deeply grateful to our teachers and Education Support Professionals—they are the heartbeat of our schools. And we know that serving students during the pandemic has been immensely difficult. School staff have accomplished so much despite the many challenges they have faced.

## Working together toward shared goals



MPS and the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT) share many of the same priorities:

- Higher wages for Education Support Professionals
- Competitive wages for our teachers
- Attracting and retaining teaching staff that better reflect the diversity of our students
- More mental health supports for our students
- Small class sizes—current averages are: 20 in elementary; 23 in middle school core content classes; 19 in high school for core content classes
- Strong COVID-19 safety protocols: The Minneapolis Health Department has repeatedly commended MPS for its comprehensive approach to limiting the spread of the virus

## The realities of the budget gap



MPS continues to face a significant gap between the resources we have (revenue) and our financial commitments (expenses). The gap is caused by many factors:

- 3,000 fewer students due to families moving out of the district during the pandemic, particularly in communities of color; the city's lack of affordable housing; and increased school options.
- Decades of underfunding public education, in particular Special Education and English Learner services.
- Increased costs of running our schools.

Find out more: [bit.ly/MPS\\_MFT](https://bit.ly/MPS_MFT)

## We can't spend money we don't have



MPS shares many of MFT's values, but with student enrollment declines and the underfunding of public education, MPS cannot afford the union's current requests.

- **MPS is facing a \$59.5M budget shortfall** for fiscal year 2022–23. Due to one-time COVID-19 federal funding ([ESSER](#)), MPS is able to reduce the budget deficit to \$21.5M; however, this means that after next year, the funding gap will continue to persist.
- **The ESSER funds run out in 2024: To use these funds for long-term expenses such as salaries will worsen MPS's long-term deficit.**
- At this point, **the gap** between MFT's proposal and what MPS can afford **is in the millions.**
- MPS has **15 different bargaining groups** (unions): 6 contracts have been settled; 1 contract (AFSCME) is pending a tentative agreement; the MFT (teachers and ESPs) and 6 other contracts are in negotiations or mediations.