



MYTH

VS

FACT



[www.stma.k12.mn.us/levy](http://www.stma.k12.mn.us/levy)

WE LISTENED. WE ADJUSTED. OUR NEEDS REMAIN. WE ARE ASKING FOR LESS.

**MYTH**

Closing open enrollment should fix STMA's financial challenges and reduce class sizes.

**FACT:** STMA would lose funding and would need to make additional cuts without open enrollment. When non-resident students choose to attend our district, the state funding that would have gone to their home district comes to STMA.

Annually, our district receives approximately \$9.7 million in state aid general fund revenue. For every \$1 million loss, there's a reduction of approximately 13 teachers. The loss of all open enrollment dollars would be the equivalent to 129 teachers.

Additional revenues generated by open enrollment actually reduce class sizes for resident students. Without the open enrollment revenue, which exceeds the cost of hiring teachers to teach the open enrolled students, class sizes would increase significantly for resident students. Without open enrolled students:

- STMA would not be able to offer current programs and services to students, including arts, high potential/advanced, activities, etc.
- Staff would be reduced
- Class sizes would increase

**MYTH**

The school district needs to trim the fat. Cutting more administrators would solve the problem.

**FACT:** Annual third-party audits show that STMA's costs for administrative and district support staff are half of what is typical statewide. In other words, there is not much more to cut.

Over the years, the School Board and district administration have taken a number of steps to address our financial needs. In spring 2022, the district cut \$1,317,500 for the 2022-23 school year. These cuts are in addition to the \$6 million in budget cuts during the last two budget cycles and the 78 staff reduced in the last 18 months.

While we continue to seek efficiencies, more budget cuts would directly impact the high-quality programs and services that make STMA such a point of pride in our community.

**MYTH**

New construction in the community should mean additional funding for STMA.

**FACT:** Not exactly. It depends on whether the homes being built have students who are now enrolling in STMA.

The district receives property tax revenue from taxpayers. The total amount the district receives is split between taxpayers. Additional homes mean the cost is actually lower for taxpayers, as the total is split among more homes.

For example, if the district has an operating levy that generates \$5 million, this amount is spread among taxpayers. The more taxpayers, the less each one has to pay.

*Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 885 (St. Michael-Albertville), 11343 50th Street NE, Albertville, MN 55301. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.*

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