



Common ground. Common good.

2008 Policy Open House: Session Summary
School Funding and Property Taxes: How Should We Pay for K-12 Education?
6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The school funding workshop examined thirteen graphs analyzing various trends in K-12 funding and related areas.

The group was most surprised by the per-pupil revenue variance by district/charter school and the trends in special education funding. Some participants were not fully aware of the 2003 funding changes. The group notes the increasing reliance on operating referenda since 2003 and questioned why this one tax issue should be handled through popular vote.

There was an expressed desire to return to the principles of the Minnesota Miracle: progressive taxation and equity across school districts.

The discussion ended – much past the scheduled closing time due to the enthusiasm of those assembled – with two questions:

1. How does spending efficiency fit into the funding conversation?
2. Should K-12 and higher education funding continue to be handled separately?

Summary by Dianne Krizan