



Ida Public Schools

Where Learning Strikes!

August 21, 2025

Dear IPS Community,

As we start the 2025-26 school year, I want to provide an update on an important issue in Lansing that could impact our students, staff, and programs in the coming months.

State law mandates that lawmakers approve a K-12 school funding budget by July 1 each year so districts like Ida Public Schools can plan and operate with certainty. That deadline has passed, and no agreement has been reached. Without a budget, there's a risk of a state government shutdown on September 30, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate.

At the heart of the deadlock is a proposal to redirect dollars from the School Aid Fund — the fund voters were promised would be dedicated to K-12 education — to other priorities, including road repairs. Many believe this violates the original intent of the system voters approved through the passage of *Proposal A* in 1994, which intended to provide fair, statewide funding for all state public schools.

If the Legislature does not pass a budget, districts will miss out on their first scheduled state aid payment on October 20, 2025. For our schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

- Compensate teachers and staff who work directly with students
- Optimize class sizes and student support services
- Maintain bus operations and keep classrooms supplied
- Fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities
- Fund important programs such as the K-12 Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch Program, supplemental declining enrollment district funds, transportation funding, school safety and mental health funding and much more.

As superintendent, I am proud of the strong financial position of Ida Public Schools. However, we cannot operate indefinitely without these necessary and guaranteed resources. If there is not a new budget in place by the September date mentioned above, there is a strong likelihood that some programs that we have grown to rely upon as a community will be impacted.

The solution is simple: lawmakers should approve a K-12 budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for educating Michigan's children without being tied to legislative or political initiatives.

Please join me in urging our elected officials to reach a quick agreement and keep K-12 funding secure. You can contact your state lawmakers to explain why timely, protected school funding is important to you and your family.

Our students deserve a stable, fully funded school year. Together, we can guarantee their learning proceeds without interruption.

Sincerely,
David J. Eack
Superintendent