



February 6, 2023

TO: Members, House Education Finance Committee
FROM: Brad Lundell, Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education
RE: Support for HF 877—Updating Transportation Sparsity Formula

I am writing in strong support of Representative Josiah Hill's HF 877, a bill that would update the transportation sparsity formula. The legislature made a decision during the 1995 legislative session to roll the separate transportation formula into the general education revenue basic formula amount with adjustments for districts whose geographic realities pushed costs beyond the uniform amount folded into the basic formula accommodated through the transportation sparsity formula.

The transportation sparsity formula has not been significantly updated since that time and districts with high—and justifiable—transportation needs are being forced to move revenue from their general funds to meet the costs that result from the transportation sparsity formula not being adjusted to the new realities many districts have experienced since the mid-1990s.

SEE lends its strong support to Representative Hill's efforts and will provide any input that is needed to provide greater insight on the need for the changes contained in HF 877.

Transportation is another area of Minnesota's education funding framework where a cross-subsidy exists and updating the transportation sparsity formula will mitigate issues faced in many districts throughout Minnesota and foster a more equitable funding system in the process.

I think the committee for its attention to this issue.