

October 27, 2022



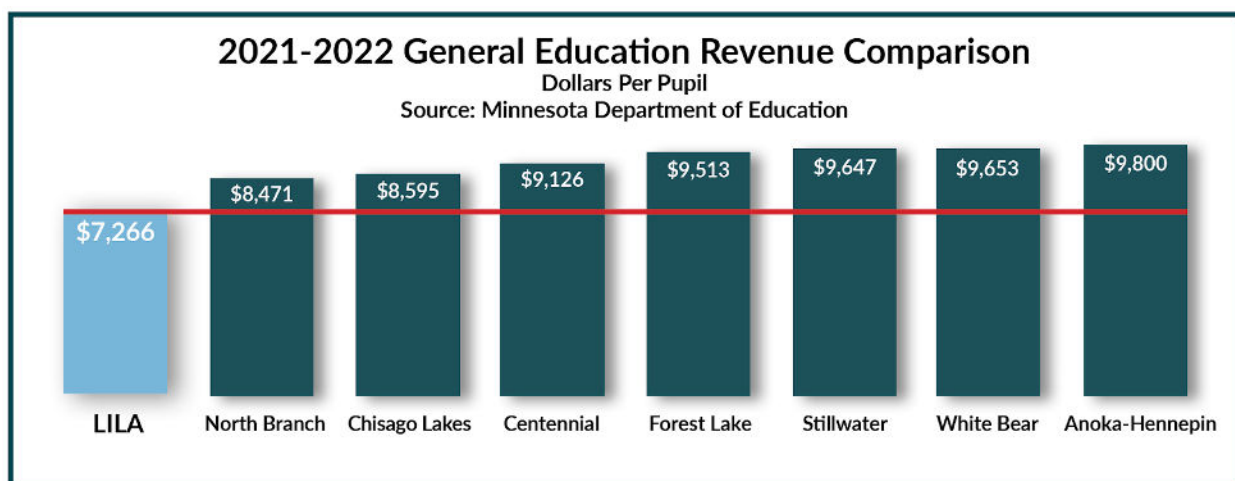
Dear LILA Families,

We're excited to announce the launch of a new opportunity for involvement at LILA – LILA Advocates.

### What are LILA Advocates?

They are our #1 fans and supporters! They can be parents or other family members, staff, students, alumni, or supporters from the greater community. They are relational, outgoing, involved, and trusted within the LILA community. They may be new to LILA and looking for a meaningful way to become involved. They bring a diverse set of interests, knowledge, skills, and passion to the table, and they are willing to share their experiences in a variety of formal and informal settings. Most importantly, they are committed to LILA's long-term success.

On **Thursday, November 3 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.**, we will be hosting an informational meeting on [Zoom](#). We'll provide an overview of Advocate roles, next steps for anyone interested, and leave time for questions. We'll also spend time discussing LILA's most immediate need, parents and others who can advocate for equitable funding at the state legislature. While we'll cover this role in greater detail at the meeting, a brief overview of the issue may provide helpful context.



*You will continue to receive the same high quality, personalized education that we've always provided at LILA, despite our funding challenges. This chart is not meant to alarm you, but inform you. We remain committed to providing LILA students an outstanding education.*

As a public charter school, LILA receives the same **basic** general education tax revenue from the State of Minnesota as traditional school districts do. Traditional districts, however, have the ability to secure additional per pupil funding by levying local taxpayers. This can occur through school board action as

well as referendums that require voter approval. Charter schools, by law, are unable to levy local taxpayers. This results in significant funding inequities. **General education revenue**, as illustrated in the graph, is the primary source of funding for public schools. These are the funds that support general operations, and directly impact the classroom. As you can see, the funding gap is significant and unsustainable. Not only has state aid not kept pace with inflation for all public schools, LILA's inability to access revenue sources that are available to traditional districts has put us at a distinct disadvantage, especially when it comes to attracting and retaining teachers and other staff. As mentioned, we'll do a little deeper dive at the meeting, and make sure there is time to answer your questions.

We know that some of you will be uncomfortable assuming a legislative advocacy role. That's ok! There are a variety of options available, and YOU will determine how much time you are willing and able to commit. For those interested in legislative advocacy, please know you will be fully trained, informed and supported in your role.

To aid us in planning, [please RSVP by Tuesday, November 1](#). If you are unsure of your availability, please do not hesitate to log in the night of the meeting if you are available. As a reminder, this is an informational meeting, and you are under no obligation to become involved. We will, however, give everyone the opportunity to opt-in at the end of the meeting.

Whether chatting with a family considering LILA or communicating with legislators, there is no more powerful voice than that of a parent, student or alumni. We look forward to working together to ensure LILA's success now and in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Peterson, Executive Director  
[speterson@mylila.org](mailto:speterson@mylila.org)

Kathy Bystrom, Director of Advancement  
[kbystrom@mylila.org](mailto:kbystrom@mylila.org)