



SAINT PAUL FEDERATION
OF EDUCATORS LOCAL 28

Fellow Educators –

This year you will see the following question on your Saint Paul City ballot:
“SHOULD THE CITY LEVY TAXES TO PROVIDE EARLY LEARNING SUBSIDIES?”

The Saint Paul Federation of Educators does NOT support this levy.

Should this substantial levy pass, it would require Saint Paul tax payers to fund yet another voucher program, moving more public dollars to private and for-profit child care providers with no plan; no systems for accountability, without creating additional child care slots, and without supporting the many small, independent, and in-home providers that serve our Saint Paul families. These providers – often BIPOC and immigrant women – play a vital role in offering a culturally relevant option for families.

Many in our community are struggling financially. If we, as a city, choose to ask the residents of Saint Paul to once again, increase their own tax burden, we must also be able to provide them a clear plan, designed with authentic community input, that centers the voices of families, educators, and child-care providers.

We recognize the crisis our St. Paul families are facing because the cost and accessibility of childcare is unattainable for so many. We recognize the fact that Minnesota’s childcare system is failing its kids, families, providers and educators due to chronically underfunding our public programs. We believe that Minnesota’s childcare system should be seen and accessed as a public good for all, and we understand that not only are there different paths to achieve that goal, but that there is also value in multiple approaches. We believe that the problem of childcare deserts cannot be addressed simply by using public dollars to fund scholarships for private, corporate, and corporate non-profit child care institutions.

As the President of the Saint Paul Federation of Educators, I am asking my fellow educators to join me in voting no on this levy.

In Solidarity,

Leah D. VanDassor, President, St. Paul Federation of Educators, on behalf of the SPFE Executive Board.