Schools lack space for high-need students.

Greater Minnesota school districts rely on cooperatives to help provide specialized instructional programs and facilities for high-need students. Together they face an unprecedented growth in these students and lack both appropriate spaces and the financing tools to give Greater Minnesota access to similar well-designed, appropriate learning spaces available for metro students.
Learn more and view interactive map at MREAVOICE.org/CoopFacilities

METRO-RURAL DISTRICT GAP IN TOOLS

	7-County Metro Area	Greater Minnesota
Median Regular Lease Levy	$71.69	$7.35
Median Intermediate Lease Levy	$11.36	$0 (not able)
Median Total Lease Levy	$88.60	$7.35
Districts with Zero Lease Levy	0	119

1 in 68 eight-year-olds were on the Autism Spectrum in 2010, **compared to 1 in 150** in 2002, the CDC reports.

"

Within 4 years, our Level IV Special Education program needs tripled. Not only did the student numbers increase rapidly, but the severity of student needs also dramatically increased. Considerable renovation is needed at considerable cost to make any currently available building appropriate and equitable when comparing our students to their non-disabled peers.

Stephanie Schmitz
Southern Plains
Alternative Programs Administrator

NEW FINANCING TOOLS NEEDED >> Provide rural school districts with financing tools that are available to members of the metro Intermediate Districts and increased flexibility with existing revenue streams.

⇒ Allow districts to use lease levy for cooperative facilities even if they once owned the facility.
⇒ Allow Long-Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) to be used to enhance leased facilities from public and private owners.
⇒ Provide Greater Minnesota school district members of cooperatives the authority to levy up to $65 per pupil for cooperative facilities, the same as district members of Metro Intermediates.
⇒ Establish a minimum allowable district lease levy authorization equal to that for 480 adjusted pupil units (for total of $31,200).

The next step is to support SF 1999 and HF 1980.

Voice for Greater Minnesota Education