

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION



Board File No. _____

Date _____

**ADOPTING A SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION MANDATING THE
DIVESTMENT OF AND PREVENTING FURTHER INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS**

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Public Schools seeks to develop awareness and empathy for global communities, including people from historically and socially marginalized and underrepresented groups; and

WHEREAS, all actions that address climate change and environmental degradation must prioritize justice and equity; while vulnerable populations, such as those in developing countries, women, children, indigenous groups, people of color, and the financially insecure, have accrued few if any economic benefits from fossil fuels, they disproportionately bear harms of pollution and waste disposal, food and water shortages, and systemic financial risks; and

WHEREAS, failure to reduce carbon emissions will result in increased risk of devastating hurricanes, flooding, droughts, fire, pestilence, and food scarcity for hundreds of millions of people, especially for marginalized and underrepresented global populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota has warmed by 3.0 degrees Fahrenheit between 1895 and 2020, and annual precipitation has increased by an average of 3.4 inches;¹

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, “each of the top-10 combined warmest and wettest years on record occurred between 1998 and 2020” and “these increases are expected to continue through the 21st century”;²

¹ https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate_change_info/climate-trends.html (last accessed October 10, 2022).

² *Id.*

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health states that, “[w]hile climate change impacts everyone, certain populations are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change.”;³

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has the authority to invest public funds pursuant to Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Chapter 118A, and, pursuant to Board of Education Policies 701.00 and 705.00, the authority to direct the investment of public funds and,

WHEREAS, by divesting from and preventing further investment in fossil fuels, the Board of Education, Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, hopes to curtail climate change for the future well-being of its students and community; and, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools:

1. Seeks to exclude investments with direct fossil fuel involvement defined as follows: do not invest in companies listed in the Carbon Underground 200 listing of the top 100 public coal companies globally and the top 100 public oil and gas companies globally. The list is updated annually and the portfolio will be reviewed annually after each update.
2. Seeks to exclude companies that derive at least an aggregate 5% of total revenue from the following activities: thermal coal extraction, thermal coal power generation, oil and gas production, oil and gas storage and distribution, and oil and gas power generation.
 - a. This restriction includes companies that derive at least 50% of their revenue from oil and gas products and services and,
 - b. This restriction includes companies that are not involved in oil and gas production but are involved in Arctic oil and gas exploration.

Exceptions to exceed the stated revenue thresholds are permissible if the manager judges the company to be a demonstrated leader in its sector in transitioning to a lower carbon emissions economy, has emission reduction goals compatible with the Paris Agreement and publicly reports on progress.

3. For asset allocation and portfolio management reasons, the district recognizes that some investments may be held in asset classes where information is not readily available regarding the fossil fuel restrictions noted above (i.e., some private investments and some alternative investments). The managers are responsible for communicating and informing the District of possible fossil fuel exposure in less transparent asset classes.
4. Regarding fund monitoring and fossil fuel exposure, after the initial review of the portfolio for fossil fuel exposure, fossil fuel restrictions would be applied when including new securities and also quarterly.

This Resolution becomes effective as of ____ [date]_____.

³ <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/climate/climate101.html> (last accessed October 10, 2022).

Adopted: _____

CHAIR Board of Education

CLERK Board of Education