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**FW: NEWS RELEASE: Saint Paul Public Schools Withdrawing from East Metro Integration District**

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News Release

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**From:** Toya Stewart Downey | Saint Paul Public Schools [mailto:toyastewart.downey@spps.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 6:00 PM  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education Supports  
Withdrawing from East Metro Integration District**

Jan. 27, 2014

**SAINT PAUL, MINN.** -- The Board of Education for Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) voted in a special meeting today its intent to withdraw its membership from the East Metro Integration District (EMID).

Several changes have occurred since EMID was created that have resulted in SPPS's decision to declare its intent to withdraw from EMID. SPPS is not the first district to do so.

The Minnesota Department of Education is in the process of revising the rule to align with new legislation and does not mandate that districts participate in collaboratives, such as EMID, but does encourage mutually beneficial partnerships among racially isolated districts and other districts.

SPPS will continue its participation with EMID until it is officially withdrawn at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. SPPS will also seek additional opportunities for collaboration in support of increased achievement and equity for our students, as required by new achievement and integration legislation.

"EMID has provided our students with so many wonderful opportunities and experiences over the years," said SPPS Superintendent Valeria Silva. "At this point it is not aligned with the strategic direction of Strong Schools, Strong Communities 2.0.

"I have especially treasured - and will continue to enjoy - the relationships I have developed with the other superintendents in EMID."

EMID is a collaborative of 10 area school districts that have united to address the educational issues resulting from dramatic demographic changes and inequities. Through EMID, nine suburban districts partner with Saint Paul Public Schools to provide culturally responsive learning opportunities that enable all students to participate fully in the social, economic, and democratic lives of their communities.

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