

MN Shutdown: Talks Bog Down Today

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Minnesota's top leaders have no budget negotiations scheduled on Thursday as the state's government shutdown reaches the end of its first week.

Democratic Governor Mark Dayton and Republican legislative leaders met with others Thursday morning to discuss funding and policy for public schools, but they didn't discuss the overall budget picture.

The education meeting came a day after Dayton and top lawmakers met without making headway on resolving their long-running dispute over spending and taxes.

Senate Majority Leader Amy Kochis pushing to wrap up the schools bill, but Dayton is holding out for an overall budget deal.

His latest offer asks Republicans to choose between a temporary income tax hike for top earners or a \$1-a-pack cigarette tax increase. They reject both options.