



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2026

AMSD recognizes that the biennial budget was set last session. However, inflation continues to outpace general education revenue, and recent legislative changes have created instability in key funding streams. Safe Schools and Local Optional Revenue have been frozen for a decade, changes to the compensatory formula have created funding cliffs for many school districts, and a contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid would erase inflationary increases to the basic formula. Given the state's current fiscal landscape, AMSD identifies both immediate and



ongoing priorities essential to sustaining high-quality education.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to \$100 per pupil for school districts and \$35 per pupil for intermediate and cooperative districts.
- Permit limited removal time within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms.
- Strengthen secure gun storage requirements.

STABILIZE COMPENSATORY FUNDING

- Hold districts harmless from revenue losses resulting from recent compensatory formula changes until recommendations from the Compensatory Revenue Task Force can be implemented.

MODERNIZE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

- Support a constitutional amendment to adopt a percentage-of-market-value distribution model that provides predictable funding while protecting long-term trust assets.

REEVALUATE MINNESOTA'S ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Establish a blue-ribbon commission to redesign Minnesota's assessment system, focusing on balanced, student-centered measures and exploring the replacement of high school MCAs with a nationally recognized college entrance exam.
- Modernize hours-of-instruction requirements so students can earn credit for learning that occurs beyond traditional settings.



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ONGOING PRIORITIES

While acknowledging fiscal constraints, AMSD believes the following priorities remain critical to the long-term success of students and school districts:

Stabilize Education Funding

- Repeal the contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid scheduled for the 2028-29 biennium.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 per pupil to restore purchasing power lost to inflation and index it to the general education formula.
- Strengthen the PSEO program to ensure financial stability, academic rigor, student support, and preparation for success after high school.

Reduce Mandates and Restore Local Control

- Repeal requirements that school boards negotiate e-learning days, student testing, and student-to-staff ratios.
- Allow school boards to renew a capital project levy at the existing rate following a public hearing.
- Fully fund or repeal summer unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff.
- Provide funding for employer premiums and substitute staff costs associated with the Paid Leave program—or exempt school districts.
- Expand school board flexibility to transfer non-federal fund surpluses among operating accounts.

ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 49 K-12 school districts and six intermediate / cooperative districts. AMSD member school districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota, with the mission to lead the transformation of public education. AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.

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AMSD MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin School District • Bloomington Public Schools • BrightWorks • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River School District ISD #728 • Farmington Area Public Schools • Forest Lake Area Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hastings Public Schools • Hopkins Public Schools • Intermediate School District #287 • Intermediate School District #917 • Inver Grove Heights Schools • Lakeville Area Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public Schools • Mankato Area Public Schools • Minneapolis Public Schools • Minnetonka Public Schools • Mounds View Public Schools • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District #916 • Northwest Suburban Integration District • Orono Schools • Osseo Area Schools • Perpich Center for Arts Education • Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools • Richfield Public Schools • Robbinsdale Area Schools • Rochester Public Schools • Rockford Area Schools • Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools • Roseville Area Schools • Shakopee Public Schools • South St. Paul Public Schools • South Washington County Schools • SouthWest Metro Intermediate District • Spring Lake Park Schools • St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District • St. Cloud Area School District 742 • St. Louis Park Public Schools • St. Michael Albertville Schools • Saint Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Area Schools