



## 2022 MSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) seeks full funding for Minnesota's public education system to ensure that each and every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to engage in relevant and meaningful learning experiences in order to thrive in today's and tomorrow's world.





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As school board members, we are committed to the work to get back to better. Increases to the basic funding formula and pandemic relief funding last year were helpful and appreciated; however, even with this significant funding, there are obligations and requirements that have not been addressed – MSBA asks the Governor and Legislature to:

### **Provide full funding - special education obligations**

- Every Minnesota school district has a cross-subsidy because federal and state revenue falls short of full funding while the statewide shortfall is expected to grow to \$806 million by FY 2025
- In FY 2020, this shortfall resulted in a funding gap of \$782 per student, resulting in increases to property tax levies and less general education funding for all students

### **Provide full funding - English learner (EL) requirements**

- Close the significant gap between EL revenue and the amount school districts spend on services for students who are not yet proficient in English
- The cross-subsidy for FY 2020 was \$118 million

### **Fully equalize property tax levies and index to inflation**

- State funding has not kept up with inflation creating a funding gap of \$598 per student
- Almost 70 percent of Minnesota schools are dependent on referendum revenue to make up this gap creating an inequity in funding across the state. Equalization levels the playing field.

### **Provide funding for facility improvements**

- Raise the cap and expand the uses of the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR)
- Fund facility improvements to support compliance with N.H. v. Anoka Hennepin

### **Address the critical staffing shortage**

- Provide the financial resources and additional flexibility needed to hire and retain school staff such as school nurses, bus drivers, tutors, educational assistants, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers

### **Increase access and support to mental health services**

- Expand full-service community schools to reduce barriers and ensure students come ready to learn
- Lift the safe schools levy cap to hire support staff to address the mental health needs of students

### **Allow school boards the authority and flexibility to redesign schools for the future**

- Redefine “instructional hours” to accommodate where and when learning occurs
- Redesign assessments to complement individualized learning
- Redesign online learning opportunities to provide real-life post-secondary and work experiences

### **Maintain local decision-making and resist any new, unfunded mandates**

- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating levy
- Allow schools boards to recover all reasonable costs of fulfilling public data requests
- Link the basic formula to inflation which allows school boards to engage in long-range planning