SLP Legislative Action Committee

Overview

Drafted 9/18/26; updated 10/16/26

Purpose

Educate. Engage. Advocate.
Local impact. Collective voice.

The purpose of the St. Louis Park Public Schools Legislative Action Committee (LAC) is to assist the board and district administration in advocacy for education-related legislation.

To keep those with state and federal influence aware of the strengths and needs of our St. Louis Park Public and Minnesota schools to achieve and maintain excellence, board members should build and maintain good relationships with legislators. The Board also needs to stay informed of pending legislation and should actively make its position known to elected representatives at both the state and national level.

To assist with these efforts, the Board will develop an annual and long-range legislative agenda, a mixture of both immediate needs and those we want to keep visible until there is a more encouraging environment for passage. We will consider the legislative agenda of the Association of Metropolitan Districts, Minnesota School Boards Association and other advocacy groups or efforts, as well as the interests of both our state and federal representatives.

The Board will annually designate a Legislative Action Committee to act as a nonpartisan legislative representative. This committee will work with the superintendent and Board in developing District positions and actions on pending and current legislation (both state and federal).

The LAC's activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- soliciting information on legislative activity that might affect the district;
- developing a work plan for advocacy of the board-approved legislative positions;
- ongoing communication with elected officials;
- running public informational events to assist the board in increasing awareness of legislative issues throughout the district; and
- advocating at the local, state, and federal levels of the board approved legislative positions.

Guiding principles

- The agenda of legislative initiatives will align with the district's strategic plan, vision, mission, values, and core beliefs and prioritizes the needs of the district, the metropolitan region and the state.
- The legislative agenda should prioritize the needs of St. Louis Park Public Schools.
- Until we can achieve a significantly better funding environment, the legislative agenda must address funding in its agenda.
- The legislative agenda should be used as the primary tool for advocating with legislators.

Membership

- No more than 3 board members
- A chairperson from the board
- Engage and encourage others to participated
    - Members of the community
    - Student members
    - District administration
- Roles can include:
    - Community chair (LAC co-chair)
    - Bill tracker
    - Community education
    - Contact legislators (calls, emails, lobby days)

Procedures (schedule)

General approach

- Preliminary committee work (May-August)
- Set a legislative agenda (September/October)
- Meet with administration (October/November)
- Revise platform
- Bring platform to board for approval (November/December)
- Meet with legislators (November-April)
- Track bills, advocate and provide updates through legislative session (January/February/March/April)

Related SLP policies

Policy 203
Policy 213