

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Prioritize Essential Funding



ENSURING ONGOING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Minnesota Association of School Administrators values the hard-earned legislative change that now ties the per-pupil formula to inflation, a vital step toward keeping school funding stable and predictable. Protecting this progress is critical.

Advance Excellence and Stability in Education

While strengthening the formula remains a top priority to support Minnesota's schools, staff, and students, we are mindful of the state's difficult budget climate. However, we want to remind the legislature that the formula is underfunded and continues to fall short of covering the real costs of educating students.

Expand Teacher Licensure and Mobility

Recognizing the budget challenges ahead, MASA urges the legislature to act on the three priorities highlighted to the left during the 2026 session, ensuring Minnesota schools can continue to fully support both students and staff.

About Minnesota Association of School Administrators

As advocates of a world-class education for Minnesota's learners, MASA's members serve as the leading voice for public education, shape and influence the state and national education agenda, and empower leaders through high-quality professional learning, services, and support. MASA members include more than 600 superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, other central office administrators, service providers, business partners, and retirees.

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PRIORITIZE ESSENTIAL FUNDING

Fiscal sustainability

- Extend the compensatory hold harmless for two years beyond its June 30, 2026, expiration
- Maintain full funding for special education cross-subsidy aid by repealing the contingent \$250 million reduction enacted in the 2025 session
- Address physical school safety and cybersecurity needs by increasing the safe schools levy and expanding LTFMR to include safety and security measures
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 per pupil; link future increases to inflation and equalize the formula

Maintaining existing funding streams

- Fully fund or repeal newly enacted mandates
 - Repeal or fully fund summer term Unemployment Insurance and Paid Leave
 - Fully fund READ Act requirements

Flexibility in use of district funds

- Expand eligible uses of the food service fund, allowing capital levy to support training related to capital purchases
- Expand eligible uses of student support personnel aid
- Allow school boards to renew a capital levy through board approval, ensuring stable funding for facility and technology needs
- Allow time-limited fund transfers, provided they do not increase state aid obligations or expand district taxing authority

ADVANCE EXCELLENCE AND STABILITY IN EDUCATION

- Strengthen the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and Online programs to ensure accountability and rigorous academic standards
 - Require students to take equivalent courses at the home district, if offered
 - Allow districts to set eligibility criteria
- Allow up to three-day K-3 dismissals for disciplinary incidents within non-exclusionary discipline requirements
- Improve superintendent retention by permitting school boards to offer contracts up to five years
- Protect the confidentiality of superintendent candidates during the interview process
- Establish state-level technology leadership

EXPAND TEACHER LICENSURE AND MOBILITY

- Allow out-of-state enrollment in approved teacher preparation programs for Tier 2 teachers to support ongoing development
- Permit Minnesota to join the Teacher Mobility Compact, enabling teachers to move between states and continue teaching with fewer barriers
- Create additional flexibility within licensure areas to help schools meet staffing needs
- Extend out-of-field permissions to maintain adequate staffing levels, continuation of student learning, and to ensure districts have flexibility and protection when teachers are serving under valid PELSB-approved OFPs.

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