

2018 MSBA Legislative Agenda

The Minnesota School Boards Association, a leading advocate for public education supports, promotes, and strengthens the work of public school boards.



Students

There are 847,000 students enrolled in Minnesota public schools.



School Boards

More than 2,000 locally elected school board members are responsible for the governance of school property, budget, curriculum, technology, taxes, student achievement and teacher quality - ensuring excellence and equity in all public schools.



Demographics

English Learners	8.3%
Special Education	15.4%
Free and Reduced Lunch	37.7%
Homeless	1.0%
Graduation Rate	82.2%



MSBA Priorities:

Special Education

The special education cross-subsidy for FY 2016 was \$679 million and is expected to grow. The projected growth suggests it is time to create a work group to design a plan to eliminate the cross-subsidy.



Teacher Retirement

In the most recent proposal, the estimate to fund the employer portion of TRA was \$64 million each year. The employer contribution should be the state's responsibility, so as not to divert funds from the district's general education fund.



Fair Funding

- Oppose using tax credits and scholarships for private education.
- Inequities in funding continue to exist. Telecommunications Equity Aid, should be fully funded to ensure all schools have affordable access to high-speed Internet service.



School Readiness

Pathway II Scholarships play an important role in increasing the access to high-quality preschool for Minnesota's neediest early learners. Funding should be restored and increased.



Accountability

Align the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) statute with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to create one statewide accountability system.



Cyber Security

Schools are increasingly becoming targets for security breaches. Resources are needed to protect students, staff and parents with secure electronic systems.



School Trust Lands

In order to enforce the School Trust Lands director legislation that was passed in 2012, the role of director must be strengthened.



Ballot Language

As a bond expires and a new one proposed, ballot language should be changed to more accurately reflect the impact to the homeowner.



Teacher Shortage

Teacher shortage continues to be an issue. Alternative Pathways are necessary to attract non-traditional students into the teaching profession. The "Grow Your Own" program should be expanded to rural school districts.



@mnmsba



@mnmsba



Minnesota School Boards Association