



**Board Meeting Date:** December 11, 2023

**Title:** Legislative Action Committee (LAC) 2024 Legislative Platform

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Legislative Action Committee

**Description:** The School Board approved board goals for the 2023-24 school year that includes legislative advocacy as a priority.

This work aligns with advocacy priorities outlined in the district's [2020-2030 Strategic Plan, Strategy E: Engage Parents, Schools and Community](#).

**Recommendation:** Review and be prepared with feedback.

**Desired Outcomes from the Board:** Board reaches consensus through discussion to move LAC 2024 priorities and plan forward for Board approval in January.

**Attachments:** 2024 LAC Legislative Platform

Below please find the 2024 Legislative Platform, and the 2023-24 LAC Goals and Action plan for Board review and discussion:

### **1) 2024 LAC Legislative Platform**

Based on the Board's work session discussion on November 28, strategic feedback from the LAC meeting on November 29, Dr. Stacie Stanley's input, plus evaluation of the [AMSD Legislative Platform](#), and [2024 MSBA Legislative Platform](#), the attached 2024 legislative platform is for Board consideration.

### **2) 2023-2024 LAC Goals and Action Plan (Year 3)**

#### **GOALS:**

- 1) *Advocacy efforts lead to priorities being realized at legislative session;*
- 2) *Relationships with all EPS legislative representation continue to develop and strengthen;*
- 3) *LAC advocacy efforts with student voice amplified; and*

- 4) *Implementation of the LAC action plan is effective (committee engagement, capacity, admin support, event success).*

**ACTION PLAN:**

- 1) **Ongoing conversations** with current and new local and national legislators in effort to build strong relationships.
  - a) **February 12 (1st day of session) through May, 2024**
- 2) LAC hosts a pre-session **legislative breakfast** event to communicate priorities to legislators and the larger community (local/federal representatives, school board, community members, student representation, district admin, and city leadership).
  - a) **Scheduled: Thursday, Jan 25, 2024, @7:30am**
- 3) LAC participates in the **Day at Capitol** advocacy event.
  - a) **Scheduled: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (all day)**
- 4) **Track and support legislative bills** and their development at local and national level to help identify opportunities for advocacy outreach.
- 5) Applications for 2024-25 LAC open, interviews are held, and membership is offered.
  - a) **May, 2024**

## **Edina Public Schools | 2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **1. INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF**

- > Provide funding to hire additional support staff and develop programming resources to address the mental health needs of students and staff; and
- > Increase statewide capacity to provide intensive mental health services for children and youth experiencing mental health crises.

### **2. STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- > Increase efficiencies to reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students;
- > Enact efforts to find solutions that address the growing shortage of special education para support throughout Minnesota districts; and
- > Fully fund the IDEA Act (federal).

### **3. STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING**

- > Increase basic formula allowance for FY25 by an additional 2% to create a permanent funding stream related to inflation (4% total in FY25) and to offset funding pressures related to new programs adopted in the 2023 legislative session; and
- > Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$920 per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation and link it to the basic formula.

### **4. ENSURE SAFE, MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES**

- > Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to address and fund 21st century brick and mortar, plus cyber security needs.

### **5. INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY WORKFORCE**

- > Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff;
- > Continue to expand programs and incentives to attract, develop, and retain teachers of color; and
- > Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.

## **6. PRIORITIZE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING THROUGH ENHANCED LOCAL DECISION-MAKING**

> Honor local control and inherent managerial rights for elected school boards best positioned to work with students, staff, parents, and community to address local needs and challenges.

References:

[2024 MSBA Legislative Platform](#)

[2024 AMSD Legislative Platform](#)