



**Board Meeting Date:** January 8, 2024

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

**Type:** Action

**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:** Approve 2024 Legislative Platform.

**Desired Outcomes from the Board:** Board reaches consensus through discussion to move LAC 2024 platform forward for board approval.

**Attachment:** 2024 LAC Legislative Platform

## **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](#)