



Board Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

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](#)