



## 2025 Legislative Platform – Centennial Schools

### **Equalization**

*Change funding formulas to provide fair equalization, making school levies, Operating Referendum, Local Optional Revenue, and Debt Service Programs more affordable.*

- Increase equalization of the operating referendum local optional, and debt service levies in the omnibus tax bill to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$1,000 per pupil and link it to the formula
- Historic Inflation
  - General Education Formula Allowance is behind by 18.7%
  - Local Optional Revenue is behind 34.5%
- Lower than state average operating referendum; local taxpayer impacts
- Formula-based equalization
  - Operating Referendum; 100% taxpayer; 0% State Aid
  - Local Optional Revenue; 100% taxpayer; 0% State Aid
  - Debt Service; 100% taxpayer; 0% State Aid

### **Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue & Lease Levy**

*Increase or change funding formulas to allow and expand allowable uses for the school board to address the facility needs of our students and community.*

- Address property tax levies to ensure comparable taxpayer support
  - Equalization
  - Cap
- Inflation has had a significant impact on our purchasing power
  - Capped at \$380 per pupil unit since 2015, FY 24 would have been \$490 per pupil if this had kept up with inflation. This is a 30% decrease in purchasing power over this time.
- Remove the per pupil limit and expand allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue to enhance safety through security modifications, remodeling, and additions to existing space
- Increase the operating capital and lease levy formulas to recover ground lost to inflation

### **Compensatory Revenue**

*The Legislature must stabilize the formula beyond the hold harmless period by using factors other than eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch.*

- The level of poverty in our school has been increasing over the past several years.
- The current formula uses student counts eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.
- With the passage of the Free School Meals Program, it has become significantly challenging to accurately determine students' income thresholds, which are part of the current formula.
- To ensure equitable outcomes for schools the formula needs to better reflect resources needed to support students.

### **Legislative Decisions of the 2023 Session**

*Fully fund the financial "tails" of approved legislation from the 2023 legislative session, including clarity on the provisions, so that school districts can adequately and effectively implement those priorities.*

- Read Act: Funding for resources and professional development, including timeline extensions
- Unemployment Insurance: Fully fund or allow school districts to levy locally.
- FMLA: Fully fund or allow school districts to levy locally.

### **Funding Priorities**

- Increase funding on the basic formula allowance for FY26 and FY27
- Further reduction of the cross-subsidies in the special education and English learner programs