



Edina Public Schools

January 12, 2026

2026 Legislative Action Committee Platform

Legislative Priorities

- 1 Stabilize Education Funding
- 2 Mental Health Support for Students & Staff
- 3 Ensure Safe School Facilities
- 4 Increased Support for Special Education & Multilingual Learners
- 5 Increase and Diversify Teacher Workforce
- 6 Provide support for greater CTE programming
- 7 Ensure Sustainable & Modern School Facilities





Priority 1: Stabilize Education Funding

EPS 2025 Platform

- Protect the Basic Education formula inflationary index and extend it to other components of General Education Revenue to ensure consistent and predictable funding that keeps pace with actual district costs.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 per pupil to restore purchasing power lost to inflation and index it to the general education formula.
- Provide full ongoing state funding to cover the state mandated costs of the summer unemployment for non-licensed school staff.
- Fully fund Minnesota Paid Leave program for school districts or allow districts and collective bargaining units to opt out of the state program.

Priority 1: Stabilize Education Funding con't

EPS 2025 Platform

- Level-fund key K-12 formula grants, such as Title I funding and require the Federal Government release those dollars by July 1 preserving the long-standing disbursement schedule. (Federal)
- Allow school boards, by Board resolution, to transfer balance surpluses of non-federal funds between district operating accounts, to meet financial needs without the need for additional aid or levy authority.
- New mandates that increase costs to districts or budget reductions that impact districts must have a fiscal note and must be enacted by March 1 of the current legislative year or delay enactment until July 1 of the following school fiscal year to allow district staffing and program adjustments.





Priority 2: Mental Health Support for Students & 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.



Priority 3: Ensure Safe School Facilities

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to \$100 per pupil for school districts and \$35 per pupil for intermediate and cooperative districts to provide districts with greater flexibility to address local safety needs (ex. SROs, staff, and facilities)
- Strengthen secure gun storage requirements.
- Permit limited removal time within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms.
- Remove the per-pupil limit and expand allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Revenue to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to enhance safety and sustainability through security modifications, remodeling and additions to existing buildings.



Priority 4: Increased Support For Special Education & Multilingual Learners

- Protect existing Special Education funding and ensure the Blue Ribbon Education Task Force \$250 million reduction target does not reverse recent progress in lowering the special education cross-subsidy - avoiding new pressures on general education budgets and local taxpayers.
- Reduce the cross-subsidies in the special education and Multilingual Learner programs.
- Fully fund the IDEA Act (Federal).
- Enact efforts to find solutions that address the growing shortage of special education para support throughout Minnesota districts.



Priority 5: Address Educator Workforce Shortage

- Strengthen programs such as the Grow Your Own and teacher apprenticeship programs to recruit and retain teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas.
- Maintain and expand pathways to teacher licensure.
- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff.



Priority 6: Provide support for greater CTE programming

- Increase local Career Technical education Revenue Levy Authority from 35% to 80%.
- Invest in career Pathways and Technical education by allocating targeted funds to fully implement Minnesota statutes. Section 127A.70 subdivision 2a.
- Strengthen Career Pathways and advance equity by ensuring consistent access to high quality career-connected learning opportunities for students in rural and urban communities.



Priority 7: Ensure Sustainable & Modern School Facilities

- Allow school boards to renew a capital project levy at the existing rate following a public hearing.
- Support a constitutional amendment to modernize the Permanent School Fund distribution allocation - replacing the outdated “interest and dividends” formula with the percentage of market value (POMV) framework for stable yearly funding while protecting the trust fund for future Generations

Questions?

Thank you!