

2026 MSBA Legislative Platform Development

Help shape MSBA's grassroots advocacy by identifying the most pressing policy and funding issues facing your school district. Your feedback will help form MSBA's legislative platform for the 2026 session.

Topics for discussion:

Section 1: Top Policy Concerns

1. If you could change one or more state law or mandate to better support your schools, what would it be—and why?

 _____

 _____

 _____


2. What challenges or opportunities do you foresee in the next few years that the Legislature should address?

 _____

Section 2: Top Funding Priorities

3. Have recent state funding increases (such as formula aid, local optional revenue, or compensatory revenue) kept pace with your district's actual costs and inflation?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat

 Please explain or give an example:





4. Which areas of your district's budget are under the most strain due to state underfunding? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Special Education
- ☐ Student Transportation
- ☐ Mental Health Services
- ☐ Facilities and Capital Needs
- ☐ Student Support Services
- ☐ Compensatory Revenue
- ☐ English Learner Aid

5. Which funding sources are most critical to your district's financial stability? (Select up to three)

- ☐ General Education Formula
- ☐ Compensatory Revenue
- ☐ Special Education Aid
- ☐ Local Optional Revenue (LOR)
- ☐ Other: _____

6. What specific unfunded or underfunded mandates are straining your district's budget?


-  _____
-  _____
-  _____
-  _____

Section 3: Staffing and Workforce

7. Is your district currently having trouble hiring or keeping any of the following staff? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Licensed Teachers
- ☐ Paraprofessionals
- ☐ Student Support Personnel
- ☐ Food Service Workers
- ☐ Transportation Staff
- ☐ Other: _____

8. What state policy changes could help your district improve hiring and retention?

-  _____

9. Are there specific licensure or compensation issues the Legislature should address?

-  _____

Section 4: Governance and Local Control

10. Have recent state decisions (such as rules on K-3 suspensions, mandated breaks, or loss of managerial rights) made it harder for your board to govern effectively?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

 If yes, please explain: _____

11. Are there any Open Meeting Law, election, or board operations issues MSBA should support or oppose?



Section 5: Advocacy Engagement

12. What lessons or takeaways from the 2025 session should guide MSBA's 2026 strategy?



13. Is your board willing to participate in advocacy efforts? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Emailing legislators
- ☐ Submitting testimony
- ☐ Attending MSBA/MASA Joint Day at the Capitol
- ☐ Participate in Inner Circle

Thank you for helping elevate the voice of Minnesota's school boards. Your input is vital to building an effective and unified advocacy platform.