



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2025

Keeping Students at the Center

Public education is foundational to Minnesota's future prosperity.

Our ability to compete in the global economy is directly tied to our success in closing the significant racial and socioeconomic disparities in our educational outcomes. All students, and all Minnesotans, will benefit when each and every student has access to an equitable and excellent education.

The AMSD Board of Directors has identified the following priorities to help stabilize school budgets and create more equitable academic opportunities for all students.



ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 47 K-12 school districts and six intermediate / cooperative districts. AMSD member school districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota, with the mission to lead the transformation of public education.

AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.

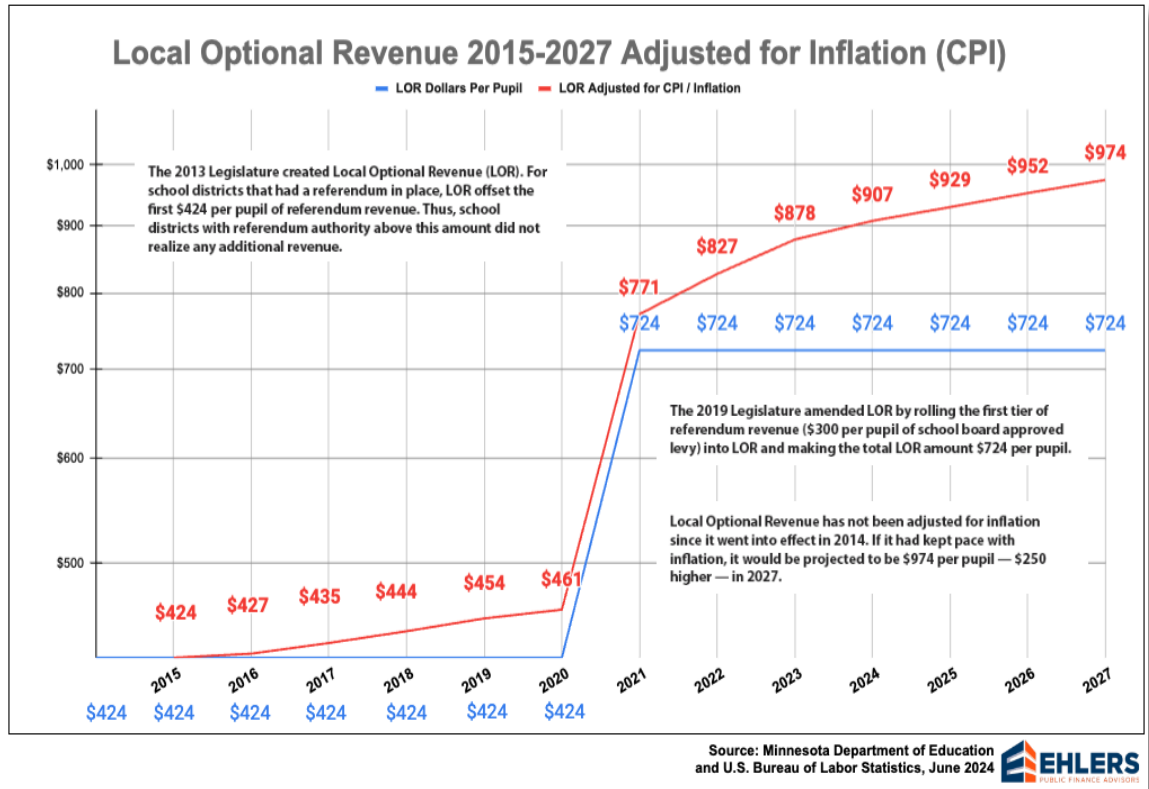


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FUNDING PRIORITIES

A stable and equitable system must provide the resources necessary to meet state mandates and recognize real inflationary cost pressures. AMSD member school districts are facing major budget shortfalls in the wake of rising costs and expansive new requirements and expectations for our schools.

To help stabilize school budgets and mitigate significant staff layoffs, the Governor and Legislature should:



- Increase the formula allowance by 3 percent over current law for FY26 and FY27;
- Increase Local Optional Revenue from \$724 to \$974 per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation since the program was established in 2014 and link it to the formula;
- Provide funding to cover the state mandated costs of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance and Paid Leave programs;
- Provide additional funding for teacher training and curriculum to ensure a successful implementation of the Read Act;
- Stabilize the compensatory funding formula by including additional criteria to identify families and students eligible for compensatory services;
- Increase the allowance for the Extended Time program so school districts can extend the school day, week and/or year to help all students succeed;
- Reduce the cross-subsidies in the special education and English learner programs;
- Strengthen programs such as the Grow Your Own and teacher apprenticeship programs to recruit and retain teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas, and maintain and expand pathways to teacher licensure; and
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies in the omnibus tax bill to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.

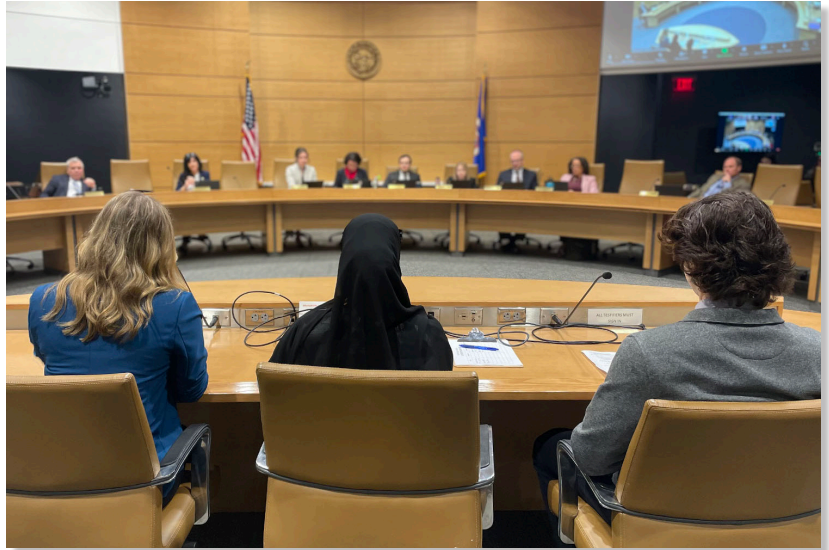


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ENHANCE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

State policymakers should expand student-centered learning opportunities to allow school districts to create meaningful and personalized experiences that prepare students for future success. Specifically, the Governor and Legislature should:

- Broaden the definition of hours of instruction to allow students to earn credit for learning wherever it occurs;
- Create a legislative working group to study existing barriers to student-centered learning and craft recommendations for improvement;
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam; and
- Direct the Minnesota Department of Education to appoint a working group to build on the Future Assessment Design Working Group recommendations from 2017 and leverage existing state expertise, including researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders, to develop an assessment system that better supports student-centered learning.



ENSURE SAFE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

To protect public assets and ensure safe and secure learning environments for students and staff, state policymakers should:

- Increase the per pupil allocation for the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM), Operating Capital, and Lease Levy programs to recover ground lost to inflation since 2014 and expand the allowable uses of LTFM revenue to include security modifications and additions for instructional space;
- Allow limited removal time from class within Non-Exclusionary Discipline (NED) to enable schools to plan effective reentry supports and interventions to ensure safe classrooms; and
- Increase the Safe Schools Levy.



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MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka Hennepin Schools •
Bloomington Public Schools •
Brooklyn Center Community Schools
• BrightWorks • Buffalo-Hanover-
Montrose Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-
Savage School District • Centennial
School District • Columbia Heights
Public Schools • Duluth Public
Schools • Eastern Carver County
Schools • Eden Prairie Schools •
Edina Public Schools • Elk River Area
Schools • Farmington Area Public
Schools • Fridley Public Schools •
Hastings School District • Hopkins
Public Schools • Intermediate
School District 287 • Intermediate
School District 917 • Inver Grove
Heights Schools • Lakeville Area
Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public
Schools • Mankato Area Public
Schools • Minneapolis Public Schools
• Minnetonka Public Schools •
Mounds View Public Schools •
Northeast Metro Intermediate
School District 916 • North St. Paul-
Maplewood-Oakdale School District
• Northwest Suburban Integration
School District • Orono Schools •
Osseo Area Schools • Prior Lake-
Savage Area Schools • Richfield
Public Schools • Robbinsdale Area
Schools • Rochester Public Schools •
Rockford Area Schools • Rosemount-
Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools •
Roseville Area Schools • Shakopee
Public Schools • South St. Paul
Public Schools • South Washington
County Schools • SouthWest Metro
Intermediate District • Spring Lake
Park Schools • St. Anthony-New
Brighton School District • St. Cloud
School District • St. Louis Park Public
Schools • St. Michael-Albertville
Schools • St. Paul Public Schools
• Stillwater Area Public Schools •
Wayzata Public Schools • West St.
Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School
District • Westonka Public Schools •
White Bear Lake Schools

RESTORE MANAGERIAL RIGHTS AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

School districts need time to implement the new programs and requirements adopted during the last biennium. AMSD urges state policymakers to refrain from enacting any new mandates and:

- Repeal the requirement that locally elected school boards negotiate e-learning days, student testing, and student-to-staff ratios;
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing capital project levy at the same rate after a public hearing;
- Require any individual submitting a data request to identify themselves and the organization they represent and allow districts to recover the rapidly escalating costs, including legal costs, associated with these requests;
- Allow school boards to establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students, staff, and community;
- Allow school districts to publish official proceedings on the district website in lieu of publishing them in a newspaper; and
- Eliminate the state requirement of a three day notice for remote school board meeting access.



STAY CONNECTED WITH AMSD

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