



12.2.24 Board Meeting

2025 Legislative Action Committee Platform





LEGISLATIVE *Priorities*

1. Stabilize Education Financing
2. Mental Health Support for Students & Staff
3. Ensure Safe, Sustainable & Modern School Facilities
4. Address Educator Workforce Shortage
5. Increased Support for Special Education & Multi-Lingual Learners



Priority 1: Stabilize Education Financing

- Increase the formula allowance by 3 percent over current law for FY26 and FY27;
- Increase Local Optional Revenue from \$724 to \$957 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



Priority 1: Stabilize Education Financing

- Provide additional funding and time for teacher training and curriculum to ensure a successful implementation of the Read Act; 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.
- No unfunded mandates



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, Sustainable & 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.
- 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: 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; and
- Maintain and expand pathways to teacher licensure; and
- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff.



Priority 5: Increased Support for Special Education & Multi-Lingual Learners

- Reduce the cross-subsidies in the special education and Multi-Lingual Learner programs
- 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)