



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #6: LTFM

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

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**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

Eliminate the long term facilities maintenance (LTFM) cap for all “1B” districts to create a statewide equitable path for every district to repair and maintain buildings and facilities.

\*We are aware that this concern has been part of the MSBA legislative platform. We are submitting this resolution again for emphasis, because we believe that this should be a priority area for the 2025 Legislative Platform.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

MDE does not collect data on the condition of school district facilities. MDE can only report on how much state aid and district property tax is being utilized by districts. The condition of public school buildings across the state varies tremendously, with some buildings less than a year old, and some nearly 100 years old. It is essential for all of Minnesota’s public school districts to formulate a short and long term plan to properly maintain their buildings and facilities, regardless of building age. However, statutes and regulations governing how much money can be allocated by a district to repair and maintain their buildings are not equitable, and most severely disadvantage the state’s smaller “1B” public schools outside of the metro areas. Because of the LTFM cap applied to our district, we are unable to properly and adequately formulate a short or long term funding plan to repair all of the existing leaks.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

Each year schools are able to plan to fix only a portion of the roof leaks and roof problems across our buildings. Some of the leaks are severe enough that buckets have to be placed in student areas each time it rains. This is deeply unacceptable, unhealthy, and unsafe. It is unacceptable in a large urban “1A” district, and it should be equally unacceptable in smaller suburban and rural “1B” districts. Most homeowners would not maintain their own properties in this piecemeal fashion. School Boards and Districts are needlessly handcuffed by the LTFM cap applied to smaller “1B” districts, while 25 larger “1A” districts (nearly all in the metro area) qualify for Alternative Facilities authority. Under this authority, their locally elected school boards can issue bonds to address facility maintenance issues. Being able to manage the process of maintaining and repairing facilities should be an equitable process for each public school district across the state, that is not tied to square footage or enrollment.

A 2014 MDE School Facilities Finance report noted the largest 25 school districts encompassing almost 50% of the state’s total public student body spent an average of \$2.79 per square foot on deferred maintenance while the other 300+ districts covering the other half of the student body spent an average of \$0.58 per square foot on deferred maintenance.

Smaller and rural districts are capped at \$380 per pupil, while the Alternative Facilities districts do not have a cap. Alternative Facilities districts have the ability to keep raising their levies because their 10-year plans drive their expenses, and their boards are able to adopt the revenue plan to pay for it. The Alternative Facility districts again are pulling away from the rest of the state in their ability to raise money towards maintenance of their buildings. If nothing changes by 2025, Alternative Facility districts will have more than double the amount of money to spend per pupil compared to the rest of the districts in the state.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

<https://www.mreavoice.org/ltfmr-is-becoming-lopsided-again/> (Retrieved 17 July 2024)

[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/123B.595#:~:text=\(a\)%20Long%2Dterm%20of%20facilities,quality%2C%20fire%20alarm%20and%20suppression](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/123B.595#:~:text=(a)%20Long%2Dterm%20of%20facilities,quality%2C%20fire%20alarm%20and%20suppression)

[https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?ldcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=022061&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary](https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?ldcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=022061&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary)

[https://www.mnasa.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/47793163/minnesota\\_schools\\_long-term\\_facilities\\_maintenance\\_1pgr.pdf](https://www.mnasa.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/47793163/minnesota_schools_long-term_facilities_maintenance_1pgr.pdf)

[https://www.mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/initial13/education/37\\_E+-+Budget+Books+Education\\_HTML+Docs\\_E374A30+Alternative+Facilities+Aid.htm#:~:text=This%20program%20allows%20large%20school,scale%20health%20and%20safety%20projects.](https://www.mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/initial13/education/37_E+-+Budget+Books+Education_HTML+Docs_E374A30+Alternative+Facilities+Aid.htm#:~:text=This%20program%20allows%20large%20school,scale%20health%20and%20safety%20projects.)

[MDE's School Facility Financing Working Group Report](#)

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.