



**Board Meeting Date:** January 9, 2023

**TITLE:** Board Legislative Action Committee (LAC) 2023 Legislative Platform, Goals and Plan

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER(S):** Legislative Action Committee: Julie Greene, Chair; Dan Arom, Board Member; Catherine Gump, community member; Kate Quayles, community member; Raja Chinnakotla, 11th grade EHS student; Sofia Doval, 11th grade EHS student; and Sabeeh Mirza, 12th grade EHS student

**BACKGROUND:** The School Board approved board goals for the 2022-23 school year that include legislative advocacy as a top priority. This work aligns with advocacy priorities outlined in the district's [2020-2027 Strategic Plan. Strategy E: Engage Parents, Schools and Community.](#)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the 2023 Legislative Platform, Plan and Goals.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES FROM THE BOARD:** Board reaches consensus through discussion to move LAC 2023 priorities and plan forward for Board approval in January.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 2023 LAC Legislative Platform DRAFT

**2022-2023 School Board Goals (Approved)**

**Board Goal (2):** *Elevate the Edina School Board within the District, State and Nation in order to advocate for the needs of the school community and best meet the needs of our district stakeholders.*

*Key actions:*

- *Board continues state and federal legislative advocacy efforts for public school education funding by following year 2 of the LAC plan.*
- *Board participates in leadership opportunities at local and national meetings/conferences (MSBA, AMSD, etc.) to elevate work of the board and successes in the district.*

*Measurable impact:*

- *Board LAC committee implements year 2 of LAC plan including increased community and legislative engagement.*
- *Full board actively participates in LAC efforts, as identified.*

To achieve these goals, the Board also approved a three-year plan for the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) in January, 2022. The 2022-23 school year is Year 2 of this plan.

### **For Board Review and Discussion:**

Below please find the 2023 Legislative Platform, and the 2022-23 LAC Goals and Action plan for Board review and discussion:

#### **1) 2023 LAC Legislative Platform**

The LAC is proposing the attached 2023 legislative platform for Board consideration. These priorities are grounded in the Board's 2022 legislative priorities with suggested changes developed in collaboration with district leadership, Dr. Stacie Stanley and Jody Remsing, Director of Student Services and Special Education and partner organizations including AMSD, MSBA and MASE, and additional aligned organizations as references.

#### **2) 2022-2023 LAC Goals and Action Plan (Year 2)**

The LAC sets goals and builds a calendar of LAC efforts in collaboration with Superintendent, Dr. Stacie Stanley and Director of Student Services and Special Education, Jody Remsing for maximum participation throughout the 2022-2023 year. These goals reflect hopeful outcomes of the LAC work this year. The committee meets on a monthly basis.

##### **➤ 2022-23 LAC Goals**

- 1) *Advocacy efforts lead to priorities being realized at legislative session;*
- 2) *New and current relationships with all EPS legislative representation are developed and strong;*
- 3) *Community gains better understanding of legislative priorities, the impact on students and engages in LAC advocacy efforts with student voice amplified;*
- 4) *Collaboration with aligned partners proves an effective tactic of advocacy efforts.*
- 5) *Implementation of LAC action plan is effective (committee engagement, capacity, admin support, event success)*

##### **➤ 2022-23 LAC Action Plan**

Through events, engagement, communication and community outreach, the LAC plans to advocate through a variety of means including, but not limited to, the following:

- Ongoing conversations with current and new local and national legislators in effort to build strong relationships

- Host pre-session legislative event to communicate priorities to legislators and larger community
  - 100% participation from local representative and at least one national representative
  - Attendance includes school board, community members and student representation outside of LAC, district admin and city leadership
- Continue to build communication base for info sharing and outreach
  - Revitalize social media platforms to welcome students and the Edina community to participate in planned LAC efforts
  - Focus on traditional media efforts targeted to students (Zephyrus) and community (Sun Current, Star Tribune), as appropriate
- Track and support legislative bills and their development at local and national level to help identify opportunities for advocacy outreach
- Engage in AMSD and MSBA legislative efforts related to 2023 priorities with participation in meetings and advocacy opportunities; identify additional partnership alignment opportunities for synergy in efforts (MACE, MDE, National PTA, AAP, etc)
- Collaborate with neighboring school districts' LAC efforts and activities for shared practices and synergy opportunities
- School board actively participate in planned LAC activities
- Attend at least 1 MN education related Committee meetings related to 2023 priorities
- Participate in at least 1 day of advocating at state capitol
- Secure at least 1 student testimony during legislature session

### **Legislative Update and LAC Efforts to Date (2022-2023)**

With the new districting lines and the results of the November, 2022, election in, the district will now have the following local legislators representing Edina Public Schools (as of January 1, 2023). It's also important to note that 2023 is a budget year at the capitol.

Rep. Cheryl Youakim (District 46B)

Rep. Heather Edelson (District 50A)

Sen. Ron Latz (District 46)

Sen. Alice Mann (District 50)

In preparation for the 2023 session, LAC has begun work. Here's a brief update:

- LAC priorities have been developed and the LAC is presenting to the school board for discussion at its regular meeting on December 12, 2022.
- LAC Pre-Legislative Session Breakfast is set and invitations are out:
  - January 11, 2023, 7:30-8:30 am, ECC, Rm 358

- Legislators outreach has started.
  - Legislators will be visiting the EPS transportation facility and Edina High School on Friday, December 9 with LAC students participating in the tour
- LAC Advocacy Day at the Capitol is set and collaboration efforts with legislator cross-over with Hopkins LAC is being planned:
  - March 8, 2023, full-day, State Capitol
- Communication and community outreach planning and coordination is in motion.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

*Attachment 1*

*DRAFT for Board Discussion, 12/2022*

## **Edina Public Schools | 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **1. STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING**

- > Link the basic formula and local optional revenue to inflation to provide a stable and consistent funding stream that allows school boards and administrators to engage in long-range and innovative planning; and
- > Allow locally-elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same level; and
- > Increase English learner funding to reduce the shortfalls in these important programs.

## **2. STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- > Increase special education funding to reduce shortfalls in this important program and fully fund special education to eliminate the cross-subsidy; and
- > Create a special student status for students in intermediate school districts requiring an extraordinary level of care. Increase state funding for these students.

## **3. ENSURE SAFE, MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES AND INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF**

- > Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff or develop programming resources to address the mental health needs of students; and
- > 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 through security modifications, remodeling and additions to existing buildings; and
- > Increase funding for statewide mental health services and supports available and accessible to both students and staff;
  - > Increase statewide capacity to provide intensive mental health services for children and youth experiencing mental health crises;
  - > Ensure school districts are allowed to receive MA reimbursement in alignment with other billable third-party related services without having to complete Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) requirements.

## **4. INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY TEACHER WORKFORCE**

- > Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff; and
- > Continue to expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers of color; and

> Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.

References:

[Association of Metropolitan School Districts \(AMSD\) 2023 Legislative Platform](#)

[Minnesota Administrators for Special Education 2021-22 Legislative Platform](#)

[Minnesota School Board Association \(MSBA\) 2023 Legislative Platform](#)