

Legislative Committee Draft of 2026 Legislative Priorities

January 20, 2026

Priority #1 - School Safety

- Increase Safe Schools levy funding to \$100 per pupil for school districts and \$35 per pupil for intermediate and cooperative units to support important safety initiatives, including cybersecurity, School Resource Officers, mental health services and physical security improvements.
- Allow limited student removal within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms.

Priority #2 - Stabilize Funding

- Ensure revenue keeps up with inflation by increasing per-pupil allocations for facilities, operating capital and lease levies, while also increasing and indexing Local Optional Revenue to the general education formula.
- Stabilize compensatory revenue by continuing Medicaid Direct Certification and hold districts harmless from revenue losses caused by recent formula changes until the Compensatory Revenue Task Force recommendations are fully implemented.
- Adjust funding rules so that funding stays with students' resident districts.
- Repeal the contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid scheduled for the 2028-2029 biennium.
- Remove the 15-day state residency requirement for students enrolled in online school.

Priority #3 - Fully Fund Mandates and Essential Services

- Fully fund or repeal summer unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff.
- Provide funding for employer premiums and substitute staff costs associated with the Paid Leave program, or provide an exemption for school districts.
- Hold districts harmless for students who opt out of state standardized tests; replace high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam and create a Blue-Ribbon Commission to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the assessment system to support student-centered balanced assessments.
- Enhance support for programs that address staff shortages and increase diversity among teachers, including Grow Your Own grants and the short-call substitute teaching program.