

Draft 2026 ISD 199 Legislative Priorities

Financial

- Extend the compensatory hold harmless for two years beyond its June 30, 2026 expiration.
- Maintain full funding for special education cross-subsidy aid by repealing the contingent \$250 million reduction enacted in the 2025 session.
- Fully fund the Multilingual learner cross-subsidy.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 (currently \$724) per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation since the program was established in 2014 and link it to the basic formula.
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew a **capital projects levy one time without an election at the voter approved rate.**
- Permanently fund **or repeal between-term unemployment benefits to non-licensed hourly school workers.**
- Fix the employer contribution of 50% under the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave Law (MnPFML) and/or allow public school district employers and collective bargaining units the ability to opt out of MnPFML.
- Fully fund the READ Act.
- **Support a constitutional amendment to modernize the Permanent School Fund distribution allocation—replacing the outdated “interest and dividends” formula with a percentage-of-market-value (POMV) framework for stable yearly funding while protecting the trust fund for future generations.**

Opportunity

- Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students.
- Establish a blue-ribbon commission to redesign Minnesota’s assessment system, focusing on balanced, student-centered measures and exploring the replacement of the high school MCAs with a nationally recognized college entrance exam.
- Modernize hours-of-instruction requirements so students can earn credit for learning that occurs beyond traditional settings.
- Strengthen the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and Online programs to ensure accountability and rigorous academic standards.
 - o Require students to take equivalent courses at the home district, if offered.
 - o Allow districts to set eligibility criteria.

Safety

- Increase the Safe School levy and add an inflationary increase **and/or** expand Long Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) to include safety and security measures.
- Permit limited removal time within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms.

Increase School District Control & Fund or Reduce Unfunded Mandates

- Resist any unfunded mandates.
- Honor local control and inherent managerial rights.

Priorities based on ISD 199, AMSD (Association of Metropolitan School Districts) & MSBA (Minnesota School Board Association) and MASA (Minnesota Association of School Administrators)