

2026 Legislative Platform



The 331 elected school boards across Minnesota are accountable to their communities and responsible for decisions about annual budget, oversight of district operations, long-term planning, district policies, curriculum, and student success.

To fulfill this role effectively, boards must have:

- Stable, adequate, and predictable funding that reflects real inflationary pressures.
- Policy and program reforms to make them work for school districts.
- Local control and flexibility to respond to the unique needs of their students and communities.

Top Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

Special Education Cross Subsidy

- Protect existing special education funding and ensure the Blue Ribbon Education Task Force's \$250 million reduction target does not reverse recent progress in lowering the special education cross subsidy—avoiding new pressures on general education budgets and local property taxpayers.

Stable and Predictable Funding

- Protect the Basic Education formula inflationary index and extend it to other components of General Education Revenue to ensure consistent and predictable funding that keeps pace with actual district costs.
- Hold districts harmless in compensatory revenue changes while improving how students in need are identified and served.
- Allow school boards, by Board resolution, to transfer balance surpluses of non-federal funds between district operating accounts, to meet financial needs without the need for additional aid or levy authority.
- Provide full ongoing state funding, or repeal, summer unemployment for non-licensed school staff.
- Fully fund the Minnesota Paid Leave program for school districts or allow districts and collective bargaining units to opt out of the state program.

Safe and Supportive Schools

- Raise the cap for the School Safety Levy to provide districts with greater flexibility to address a full range of local safety needs — including support for School Resource Officers (SROs), staff, and facility priorities — consistent with best practices and community expectations.
- Reevaluate non-exclusionary discipline strategies recognizing one statewide approach does not effectively meet the safety needs of all students.



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Ongoing Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

Facilities and Infrastructure

- Allow school boards a one-time Capital Projects Levy renewal authority and give greater flexibility in Long-Term Facilities Revenue for facility upgrades or maintenance.

Instruction and Assessments

- Transition from the MCAs to a nationally recognized assessment like the ACT.
- Broaden the definition of "instructional hours" to allow high school students to access non-traditional courses allowing them to better meet individualized student success.
- Update the online learning statute to direct the Minnesota Department of Education to design, implement and evaluate a pilot of secure remote testing options for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment Reform

- Address Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) statutes to restore balance and fairness to school districts while preserving meaningful college-credit opportunities for students.

Local Option Revenue (LOR) Levy Authority

- Increase school board LOR authority from \$724 to \$979 per pupil closing the inflation gap, reducing financial pressure on districts and promoting more stable, equitable funding statewide.

Permanent School Fund Modernization

- 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.

Timely Implementation of Fiscal Mandates

- New mandates that increase costs to districts or budget reductions that impact districts must have a fiscal note and must be enacted by March 1 of the current legislative year or delay enactment until July 1 of the following school fiscal year to allow district staffing and program adjustments.

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