



Working Meeting Agenda

Diamondhead Education Center
200 W. Burnsville Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337
October 25, 2022
6:00 PM

I. Welcome

II. Reviewing the 2022 legislative platform

Description: Review it for any recommended changes as we begin to develop the 2023 platform

III. Wrap Up

IV. Adjourn



During the 2022 legislative session we ask the Governor and the Legislature to support the following:

Education Funding

School Funding

- Link the basic formula to annual increases to inflation.
- Tie English Learner funding to the basic funding formula and increase to the rate of inflation.

Safe and Supportive Schools Funding

- Increase funding to \$100 per pupil to support student mental health and to increase the number of student support professionals, guidance counselors, social workers, or contracted services in these areas.
- Extend safe schools funding to all cooperative school districts.
- Establish a minimum level of \$100,000 per school district to ensure districts statewide receive adequate funding.
- Include cyber security efforts to allow school districts to update systems and pay increasing insurance costs.

Compensatory Revenue

- Allow school districts to use 2019 compensatory pupil counts to address impacts brought on by the COVID pandemic.
- Allow for additional options to meet free and reduced price lunch eligibility, which is the primary factor in determining compensatory revenue.

Operating Levies

- Allow school board renewal of existing and future operating levies.

Cross Subsidies

- Support a single special education formula that is stable and equitable, and consistent. MASA also seeks increases to hold the state total cross subsidy constant with the goal to fully eliminate it.

School Finance Working Group

- Support the 2020 School Finance Work Group recommendations.

Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM)

- Remove the per pupil limit and broaden the eligible uses.

Technology

- Increase funding for broadband and technology infrastructure.

Education Policy

Increase Local Control

- Provide school districts flexibility to adapt learning environments for positive student outcomes and to make decisions based on local needs, including:
 - Remote learning options
 - School calendars and schedules
 - Creativity with seat time & Carnegie Units
 - Assessments
 - Allow school district discretion on E-learning days

Reduce Mandates

- Cease adding new unfunded mandates.
- Fund current mandates already in law.
- Reduce or eliminate the requirements for public schools to subsidize the transportation to and from the non-public schools within their school district boundaries.

Increase Flexibility for School Districts

- Allow school districts the opportunity to attract, develop and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in licensure shortage areas
 - Remove barriers
 - Provide incentives and alternatives to the teaching profession
- Recruit/Retain Staff
 - Institute teacher licensure reciprocity with other states
 - Increase licensure flexibility for:
 - Substitute teachers
 - Science teachers
 - Middle level teachers





Minnesota Association of School Administrators

2022 Legislative Platform

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School Finance Working Group

In 2020, the School Finance Working group brought forward recommendations to address funding pressures school districts face. The working group's set of recommendations include proposals to provide adequacy and stability to our education finance system; target revenue to close opportunity gaps; improve staff recruitment, retention, and development; and provide equity for taxpayers.

Broadband For All

MASA recognizes the role broadband access plays in meeting the educational, economic, social, and medical needs in communities. MASA also urges the passage of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband recommendations to increase funding and policies to ensure broadband access for all Minnesotans.

About MASA

The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) believes a fully funded, equitable education system is key to providing a quality education that supports our economic prosperity. Educational funding and policy issues impact every district's ability to provide a high-quality education system, develop the world's best workforce, ensure all students acquire 21st century skills.

As advocates of a world-class education for Minnesota's learners, MASA's members serve as the leading voice for public education, shape and influence the State and National education agenda, and empower leaders through high quality professional learning, services, and support.

MASA members include more than 900 public education and non-public superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, other central office administrators, service providers, business partners, and retirees.

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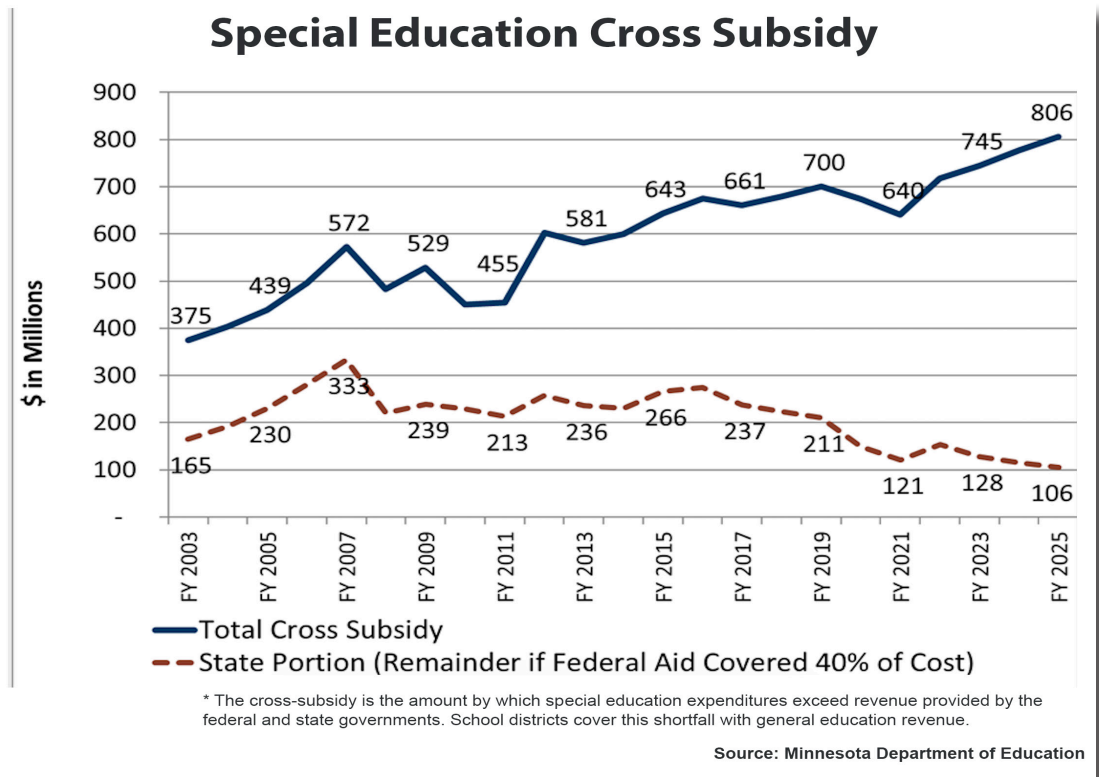
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2022

The AMSD Board of Directors recognizes that the 2022 session is not a budget-setting session.

At the same time, it is critical that state policymakers strengthen Minnesota's education funding system which is not providing adequate, equitable or reliable resources for our schools. As the chart to the right shows, the special education cross-subsidy (shortfall) is projected to grow to \$806 million by FY 2025. Similarly, the shortfall in the English learner program was more than \$117 million in FY 2020. The basic formula would be \$598 per pupil higher today if it had simply kept pace with inflation since 2003.

AMSD is committed to helping students recover from the



COVID-19 pandemic and closing opportunity gaps based on race and socioeconomic status. The federal government provided significant, one-time emergency funding over the past two years to help school districts address technology and internet connectivity, increased transportation costs, personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies, and the loss of revenue related to enrollment decline. However, the federal aid is one-time funding and does not negate the need for reliable and predictable state funding.

The AMSD Board of Directors urges the Governor and Legislators to stabilize the education funding system by addressing the following critical issues in the 2022 legislative session.

ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 44 K-12 school districts, five intermediate/ cooperative districts and two integration districts. AMSD member school districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota. AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.





Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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 planning;
- Allow locally-elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same level;
- Increase special education and English learner funding to reduce the shortfalls in these important programs; and
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.

ENSURE SAFE, MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff 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.

INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY TEACHER WORKFORCE

- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff;
- 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.

REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

Oppose any new unfunded mandates and allow school districts greater flexibility to:

- Implement a competency-based education model in lieu of seat time requirements;
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam;
- Post minutes and budget information on the district website rather than be published in a newspaper;
- Establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students and community; and
- Recover the rapidly escalating costs associated with data information requests.

AMSD MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin School District • Bloomington Public Schools • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River School District ISD #728 • Equity Alliance MN • Farmington Area Public Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hastings Public Schools • Hopkins Public Schools • Intermediate School District #287 • Intermediate School District #917 • Inver Grove Heights Schools • Lakeville Area Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public Schools • Metro ECSU • Minneapolis Public Schools • Minnetonka Public Schools • Mounds View Public Schools • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District #916 • Northwest Suburban Integration District • Orono Schools • Osseo Area Schools • Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools • Richfield Public Schools • Robbinsdale Area Schools • Rochester Public Schools • Rockford Area Schools • Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools • Roseville Area Schools • Shakopee Public Schools • South St. Paul Public Schools • South Washington County Schools • SouthWest Metro Intermediate District • Spring Lake Park Schools • St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District • St. Cloud Area School District 742 • St. Louis Park Public Schools • Saint Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Area Schools

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Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2023 Legislative Platform Outline

DRAFT

Stabilize Funding

- Increase the basic formula allowance by ___ percent per year and index the formula to inflation;
- Eliminate the shortfalls in the special education and English learner programs;
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum;
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities; and
- Increase Local Optional Revenue and link it to the basic formula.

Enhance School Safety and Increase Mental Health Support

- Increase the Safe Schools Levy and/or state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff to address the growing mental health needs of our students;
- Remove the per pupil limit in the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue program and expand allowable uses of revenue to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to enhance safety through security modifications to buildings, including remodeling and additions to existing space.

Close Opportunity Gaps and Spur Innovation

- Make funding for the Voluntary Pre-K program permanent and increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs;
- Allow school districts to implement a competency-based education model in lieu of seat time requirements to allow for personalized learning opportunities for students;
- Modernize the online learning law to expand opportunities for students;
- Establish a pilot project to allow approved school districts to replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally-recognized college entrance exam;
- Allow locally elected school boards to establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students, staff, and community.

Diversify the Educator Workforce and Address Shortage Areas

- Create incentives and alternative pathways to attract, develop, and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas;
- Streamline the process to obtain a short-call substitute teaching license and maintain multiple pathways to teacher licensure in the tiered licensing system; and
- Invest in rigorous teacher induction and mentoring programs.

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) seeks full funding for Minnesota's public education system to ensure that each and every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to engage in relevant and meaningful learning experiences in order to thrive in today's and tomorrow's world.





2022 MSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

As school board members, we are committed to the work to get back to better. Increases to the basic funding formula and pandemic relief funding last year were helpful and appreciated; however, even with this significant funding, there are obligations and requirements that have not been addressed – MSBA asks the Governor and Legislature to:

Provide full funding - special education obligations

- Every Minnesota school district has a cross-subsidy because federal and state revenue falls short of full funding while the statewide shortfall is expected to grow to \$806 million by FY 2025
- In FY 2020, this shortfall resulted in a funding gap of \$782 per student, resulting in increases to property tax levies and less general education funding for all students

Provide full funding - English learner (EL) requirements

- Close the significant gap between EL revenue and the amount school districts spend on services for students who are not yet proficient in English
- The cross-subsidy for FY 2020 was \$118 million

Fully equalize property tax levies and index to inflation

- State funding has not kept up with inflation creating a funding gap of \$598 per student
- Almost 70 percent of Minnesota schools are dependent on referendum revenue to make up this gap creating an inequity in funding across the state. Equalization levels the playing field.

Provide funding for facility improvements

- Raise the cap and expand the uses of the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR)
- Fund facility improvements to support compliance with N.H. v. Anoka Hennepin

Address the critical staffing shortage

- Provide the financial resources and additional flexibility needed to hire and retain school staff such as school nurses, bus drivers, tutors, educational assistants, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers

Increase access and support to mental health services

- Expand full-service community schools to reduce barriers and ensure students come ready to learn
- Lift the safe schools levy cap to hire support staff to address the mental health needs of students

Allow school boards the authority and flexibility to redesign schools for the future

- Redefine “instructional hours” to accommodate where and when learning occurs
- Redesign assessments to complement individualized learning
- Redesign online learning opportunities to provide real-life post-secondary and work experiences

Maintain local decision-making and resist any new, unfunded mandates

- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating levy
- Allow schools boards to recover all reasonable costs of fulfilling public data requests
- Link the basic formula to inflation which allows school boards to engage in long-range planning

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2022

Supporting all students and addressing inequity in education

On behalf of the students, educators, families and community members of Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, the District 191 Legislative Committee asks the Minnesota State Legislature and U.S. Congress to take the actions described in this platform in 2022.

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education and English learning

Provide a legislative exemption to allow local control of property sale proceeds

Remove 15-day residency requirement for students enrolled in online schools

Increase Safe Schools funding to expand mental health supports

Provide targeted funding to increase diversity among teachers

Permanently fund free school meals



District 191

Legislative Platform

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education, English learning

These services are essential for supporting the individual needs of students and are mandated by law. But in 2018-19, for instance, District 191 received about \$12.8 million less in funding than was spent to provide those services. Those costs were covered by the district's general fund — the cross subsidy — meaning less money for general education staff, programming and services.

Remove the 15-day residency requirement for online students

Under current law, a student who leaves Minnesota for longer than 15 consecutive days is automatically unenrolled from their school. In the age of online school options, this requirement should be removed for any student enrolled online whose permanent address remains in the state.

Increase funding for mental health

It's never been more important to address the mental health needs of students to ensure they are prepared to learn and grow. Increasing the Safe Schools levy will allow schools districts to hire staff to address those needs.

Provide targeted funding to increase diversity among teachers

In District 191 and across Minnesota, only about 4% of teachers are people of color. Studies show that all students do better when they are taught by a diverse teaching staff, and the lack of representation especially harms students of color.

Permanently fund free school meals for all students

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of ensuring all students have consistent access to healthy meals through schools. By making the current program of providing free school breakfast and lunch to all students, a barrier to learning is removed.

Provide a legislative exemption for District 191 property sale

District 191 is planning to sell one or more properties and is seeking a legislative exemption that would allow proceeds of the sale to be transferred to the district's general fund.

ABOUT DISTRICT 191

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 is a future-forward school district creating barrier-free pathways for learning for everyone in our community.

We believe learning is a lifelong pursuit, and create programs, services and opportunities that inspire this belief.

Each Student.

Future Ready.

Community Strong.

one91
Burnsville · Eagan · Savage

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