



Working Meeting Agenda

Diamondhead Education Center
200 W. Burnsville Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337
September 24, 2024
6:00 PM

Strategic Directions:

- Creating space and opportunity for each and every voice to be heard
- Actively leading by developing and sustaining a diverse and equitable education system
- Supporting and leveraging innovation to improve student outcomes and district culture
- Engaging our community to ensure common understanding of our Strategic Roadmap and the district work to support it

I. Welcome

II. Item to Discuss

- A. Conversation with Senator Lindsey Port regarding ISD 191 Legislative Priorities 2

Speaker(s): Lesley Chester, Legislative Committee Chair

- B. Review AMSD and SCALE Update for the 2025 Legislative Priorities 4

Speaker(s): Dr. Theresa Battle, Superintendent

III. Wrap Up

IV. Adjourn



Spark.
Fuel.



Blaze.



School District 191 Legislative Platform

Adopted for 2024

2024 Legislative Platform

Supporting all learners 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 Board of Education asks the Minnesota State Legislature and U.S. Congress to take the actions described in this platform in 2024.

Fully fund mandates and essential services

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education and English Learner funding

Create a permanent state funding stream for unemployment insurance for non-licensed employees

Provide additional funding to reimburse districts for implementation and training expenses related to early adoption of evidence-based reading curriculum

Removing barriers so all students and families can succeed

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

Continue medicaid eligibility as a means of direct certification for students to qualify for educational benefits, and make funding permanent to hold districts harmless for loss of compensatory aid

Provide funding to increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs, including licensed or certified child care

Create safe school environments that support all students

Increase Safe Schools funding to expand mental health supports

Enhance support for programs that address staff shortages and help increase diversity among teachers, including Grow Your Own grants and the short-call substitute teaching program

Provide improved clarity, including clear guidelines and improved definitions, related to school resource officers' use of physical restraints in schools

About District 191

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 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 we create programs, services and opportunities that inspire this belief.

Each Student. Future Ready. Community Strong.



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2025 Legislative Session | Platform Survey Summary

Below is a list of the most frequently identified issues by AMSD board members and school district staff in a survey seeking input on legislative priorities for the 2025 legislative session. The number in parentheses indicates how many times respondents identified that issue.

A total of 38 responses were received. (*Context:* 38 responses were received in 2023; 48 responses in 2022; 24 responses in 2021; 25 responses in 2020; 27 responses in 2019, 36 responses in 2018, and 34 responses in 2017).

Funding Issues

- **FORMULA INCREASE / ADJUSTMENT (23)**
 - Increase the formula
 - Index all categoricals to the formula
 - Increase the basic formula allowance by an additional 2 percent for FY 25
 - Bump the formula by an additional 2%
 - Basic formula allowance. There is still a significant "funding gap" when compared to inflation over the past 20 years.
 - Increase the floor from 2% to 3% and increase the cap from 3% to 5% on basic education funding. In other words, the increase should be no less than 3% but no greater than 5%.
 - Remove the cap (3%) on the inflation factor for the Per Pupil Formula.
 - Continue to address rising costs through additional Formula Allowance
 - Formula beyond inflation
 - Adding a inflationary factor to gen ed formula
 - 3%-3% on formula
 - Remove the cap (3%) on the inflation factor for the Per Pupil Formula.
 - Pupil Funding
 - Adding to the general formula so we can meet union members' demands of 6-10% increases
 - Increases in Formula are not keeping up with inflation and expense. The increases last time still result in deficit spending even with reductions to curb expenses.



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- **CROSS-SUBSIDIES (23)**
 - Reduce the cross subsidy for special education and English Learner funding
 - Special Education including tuition billing
 - Fully fund special, ell and other required services.
 - Special Ed and EL cross subsidies. Significant gains in the 2-23 session, but we are still about "half way there."
 - English Learner funding

- **LOR / REFERENDUM ADJUSTMENTS (12)**
 - Catch up the Local Optional Revenue to where it should be based on the Ehlers graph and then also allow that one to change the same as referendum revenues that have inflation built into them.
 - Increase local optional funding by \$276 per pupil unit for 2026 and increase the total \$1000 per pupil unit by inflation for 2027 and into the future. Any additional funding above the current \$724 should be equalized 100% with state aid and not impact local taxpayers.
 - Local Optional Revenue increases to \$1000 to restore original purchasing power
 - Increase LOR amount for school districts, tie to CPI

- **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COSTS/PAID FAMILY LEAVE (11)**
 - Summer/Seasonal Unemployment has to be fully funded in an ongoing way or changed. It is making it harder to find employees and costing us more.
 - Full funding of the unemployment benefit for non-licensed school personnel
 - Create a permanent state funding stream for unemployment insurance for non-licensed employees
 - Ongoing funding stream for unemployment insurance and FMLA costs
 - Establish an ongoing funding stream for unemployment insurance and Paid Family Medical Leave costs
 - Permanent funding stream for paid leave/summer unemployment
 - Allow districts to levy for all unemployment after the bucket of state aid is exhausted for between terms of unemployment.

- **LTFM / FACILITIES (9)**
 - Allowing LTFM funds to be used for a wider category
 - Increase LTFM
 - Increases to allowances that have been flat for many years: LOR, extended time, LTFM, Operating capital, Gifted and Talented, etc.
 - LTFM: Increase Cap and Expand Uses



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- Operating Capital factors have only increased by \$11 and \$9 per pupil. Since the 1998 Pay 1999 Levy for FY2000
- Increasing lease levy authority for facilities
- Remove the per pupil limit in the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue program.
- With Statewide declining enrollment the lease levy needs to be changed to be \$212 per pupil or existing obligations, whichever is greater. Lease Levy needs to be increased for Inflation to \$325. LTFM should've be increased ro \$600 per pupil for non-alt facility districts

- **EQUALIZATION (7)**
 - Increase property tax equalization
 - Equalization: Operating Referendum, LOR, and Debt Service
 - Equalization of levies
 - Increasing equalization aid and linking the formula to property value
 - You know how much equalization would mean for some districts. I am debating whether I just leave it in the dust or if there is a new approach that could be tried.
 - Level the playing field for those districts unable to pass referendums.

- **COMPENSATORY FUNDING (7)**
 - Compensatory hold harmless made permanent
 - Compensatory revenue formula fix
 - Adoption of a new compensatory revenue formula based on research-based factors that correlate with low academic achievement and allow for a site-based concentration factor
 - Compensatory funding: Extend the hold harmless or develop a new strategy to provide equitable funding to school districts.

- **READ ACT funding / literacy (5)**
 - Fully fund Read Act and **other mandates***
 - Fully fund READ Act
 - Dollars to purchase curriculum (READ Act)
 - Read ACT
 - The Read Act expenses need to be fully funded on an ongoing basis.

- **SCHOOL SAFETY / REVENUE AND TECHNOLOGY (5)**
 - Safety Infrastructure
 - Increase safe schools aid



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- Enhance school safety by expanding usages of LTFM revenue to address local needs.
- Additional funding for school safety
- Additional Health and Safety funding - with Flexibility!

- **MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING (4)**
 - Increase in mental health support
 - Additional funding for mental health support

- **TOCA / TEACHER PATHWAY FUNDING (2)**
 - Provide enhanced funding for the Teachers of Color Act
 - Sustainability of Apprenticeship Pathways

- **FUND MANDATES (2)**
 - Fully fund Read Act and other mandates*
 - Fully fund all mandates

- **INCREASE OPERATING REFERENDUM CAP (2)**
 - Increase the Voter Approved Referendum Cap

Additional topics identified:

- Excess Cost Aid for Federal 3 and 4 programs/schools
- Expanding QComp by increasing State revenue to immediately cover all districts currently on the waiting list, and then expand to all districts who apply.
- ALC funding - set new amount and tie to inflation
- Allow one-time board renewal of capital projects/technology levies
- Contract requests
- Any time that revenue budgeted by the State for E12 Education is greater than that actually distributed to public school districts (i.e. Due to declining enrollment greater than projected by the State), the money is proportionately added as revenue to school districts rather than being returned to the State.
- Support School Media Center LMS programs as part of learner centered learning opportunities and literacy programs.
- Increase discretionary use of general fund revenue
- Technology
- Expand access to Preschool
- Support fully funding preK -12 programs



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Policy Issues

- **MANDATES AND GUIDANCE (12)**
 - NO NEW MANDATES!
 - Repeal mandates - Unemployment
 - Fund or repeal unfunded mandates
 - No new mandates: Allow districts to properly implement the legislation from the last session to fidelity
 - No mandates! Eliminate some we have.
 - FMLA, ESST, Unemployment: Roll back/Extend the Timelines or provide funding for these policies/mandates.
 - No more new ideas

- **LOCAL CONTROL / MANAGERIAL RIGHTS (12)**
 - End between terms unemployment for public school district employees.
 - Allow districts to remove benefits like paid family medical leave from their collective bargaining contracts so we don't have to continue to offer them and pay a 0.44%-0.88% payroll tax.
 - Repeal bargaining of staff ratios
 - Return negotiations parameters for public schools to maintain managerial rights and be able to manage school districts and budgets
 - Remove class size as part of negotiations
 - Earned Safe and Sick time language to address proration for Part Time employees
 - Delay paid leave implementation past 2026
 - Empower local decision making by resisting new unfunded mandates
 - Expand local control.
 - Allow local school boards the authority to determine how to best serve their student population - i.e. testing, learning environments

- **TEACHER / STAFFING SHORTAGES (8)**
 - Enhance support for programs that address staff shortages and help increase diversity among teachers, including Grow Your Own grants and the short-call substitute teaching program
 - Provide supports to continue to address educator workforce shortage
 - Teacher shortages
 - Address staffing shortages and teacher retention



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- Ease licensing restriction for out of state candidates
- Support for the Grow-Your-Own Programs
- Eliminating prohibitive PELSB requirements that get in the way of hiring creatively, especially in hard to fill areas (PE, SPED, World Language, Early Childhood)
- **BOARD RENEWAL OF CAPITAL LEVIES (6)**
 - Allow for board renewal of capital project levies
 - Enhance school board levy authority beyond current law Local Option Revenue and One-time referendum renewal authority
 - Expand board taxing authority (Renewing tech levy, expanding alt facilities, etc.)
 - Give school boards the authority to renew a capital projects ("technology") levy one time, same as authorized for operating levy renewals
 - Allow boards to renew operating levies more than one time.
- **DATA PRACTICES (5)**
 - Address the excessive data requests, limit them in scope and provide funding or allow charging for them at a rate that actually does not penalize kids by taking away general fund dollars for their education.
 - Update the Data Practices Act - Requests have become unwieldy, and businesses take advantage of the law for commercial purposes. This creates a tremendous burden on school districts and many of the current requests are not in line with the spirit of the law.
 - Update the Data Practices Act
 - Digital student records - We have universal records for healthcare now, but getting student enrollment records is a tedious and manual process that takes up a lot of time. As an open enrollment state, we should have a better and easier way to request/share records.
 - Include all costs (staff time primarily is missing) in responding to data requests with a down payment of at least 50% due before the district works on a response.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY (5)**
 - Reduce special education paperwork.
 - SPED licensing pipeline
 - Further restrict SPED tuition billing back to resident school districts for services delivered to students in special education settings in the enrolling school district
 - Reduce special education paperwork requirements



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- Reduce special education paperwork by eliminating or reducing the reports that go beyond federal compliance
- **STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING (4)**
 - Prioritize Student Centered Learning through enhanced local control
 - Student-Centered Learning initiatives (Seat time, profile of a graduate, professional development, etc)
 - Competency based education
 - Personalized competency based policy
- **READ ACT (3)**
 - More time to implement Read Act
 - Align READ Act Expectations with MDE Guidance
 - Do not keep adding to and/or pushing out the READ act. Let's finish version one before we do v2, v3, etc.
- **STUDENT DISCIPLINE (2)**
 - Revisit K-3 Discipline
 - IEP process allowing seclusion

Additional topics identified:

- Add categoricals to Gen Ed formula and let the districts determine use to meet graduation requirements
- Remove 15-day residency requirement for students enrolled in online schools
- Removing MCA requirement at 11th grade level and replacing it with ACT
- Expand Q Comp
- Pension Reform (Policy and Funding)
- Limit the proliferation of charter schools
- Review criteria for the Compensatory Revenue Pilot Program and expand eligibility to more districts with large numbers of students living in poverty, but not necessarily the density of poverty needed for regular compensatory funding
- Support and fund ethnic studies addition/improvement
- Discontinue the current practice of including scores of students who choose to opt out of MCA standardized testing,
- Revisit Charter School intent/outcomes
- Allowing boards to publish minutes on district website



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- Increase Review and Comment Threshold for Inflation to \$3.5 million
- Eliminate District fiscal responsibility for wards of the state
- Generative AI and Standards Revision
- Support and fund School Media learning, increase program access, close gaps, support equity
- Run a large campaign to elevate the status of education. We need public education to be revered in the public eye.
- Flexibility on school days (Virtual and pre-labor day)
- NO vouchers for non-public school
- Close Early Childhood SPED programs to open enrollment
- Increased flexibility with instructional hour requirements that allow for competency based learning opportunities for students.
- Reform open enrollment to ensure more equity and minimize funding loss
- Foster Innovation in educational programming
- Direct funding of student support aid to intermediates
- Allow boards to attend meetings remotely without posting 3 days in advance
- The entire public education enterprise should study and develop a policy about the appropriate use of AI across the enterprise.
- We are still planning on submitting the Safe Firearm Storage Information Resolution submitted to MSBA last year. I am going to speak to the mental health expert at MDE to see if it could be a part of their platform, since it is directly related to suicide prevention. Thank you for the last AMSD presentation, which gave me this idea (although the idea came to me after the fact). I appreciate the work that you do and look forward to working together on legislative advocacy for our public schools.

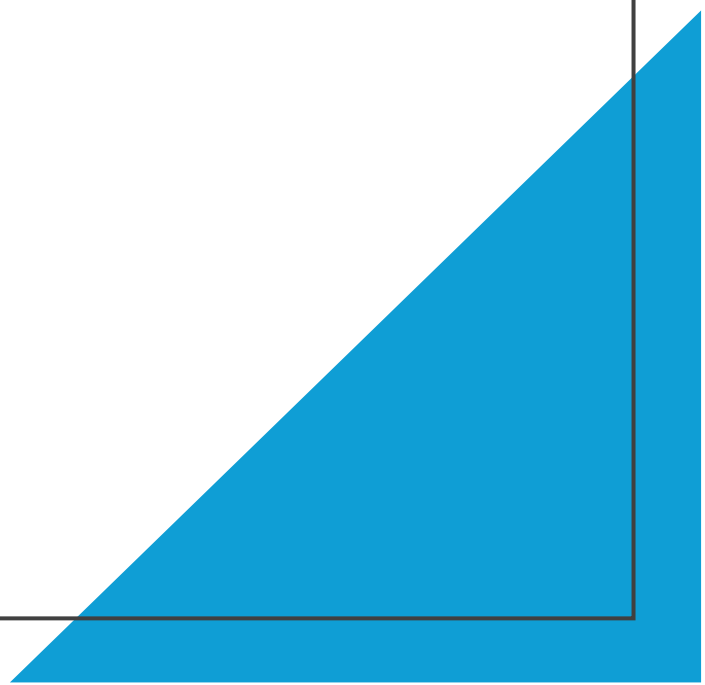


SCALE

Scott County Association
for Leadership & Efficiency

2025 Legislative Priority Planning

September 13, 2024



2023 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority/Position	Outcome
Incremental costs of growth to be paid for by development	No action
Support legislation that helps address the growing teacher shortage	No action
Support the implementation of the Statewide Rail Plan and the repeal of all legislative restrictions on the study and possible creation of the Dan Patch Rail Line	Legislation passed!
Support adequate and flexible increase in the General Education Aid (per pupil) formula funding	Legislation passed!
Provide additional funds for mental health/behavioral support for students	Legislation passed!
Reform the Metropolitan Council governance structure	No action
Merriam Junction Trail capital request	Bonding received!
Shakopee riverbank stabilization	Bonding received!
TH 169/TH282/CSAH 9 intersection	Bonding received!
Innovation Center	
TH 13 and Quentin/Lynn interchange (Ports of Savage)	Corridors of Commerce funds
I-35W/CR 2 interchange development	No action

2024 Legislative Priorities

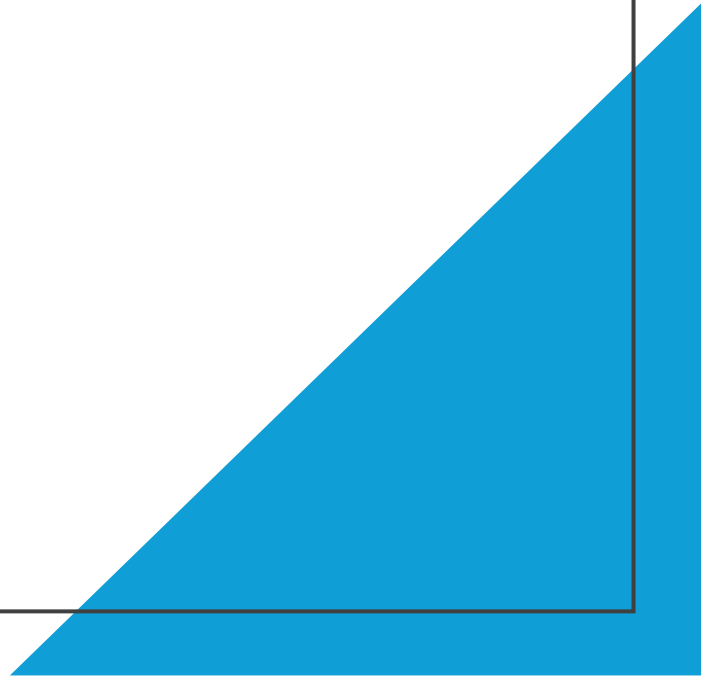
Legislative Priority/Position	Outcome
Incremental costs of growth to be paid for by development	No action
Housing	Supported local control!
Reform the Metropolitan Council governance structure	No action
Road bridges	
School Resource Officers	Legislation passed!
Schools per pupil formula	Legislation passed!
Education	Legislation passed!
Improvements to Quentin Avenue and bridges in Savage	No bonding bill
Louisville Segment of the Merriam Junction Trail	No bonding bill
Innovation Center	No bonding bill
Prior Lake Outlet Pipe lining	Funding received (MPCA)
I-35W/CR 2 interchange development	No bonding bill



SCALE

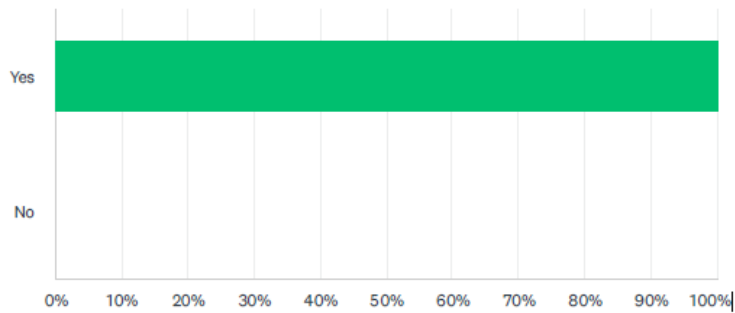
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2025 Legislative Priority Planning



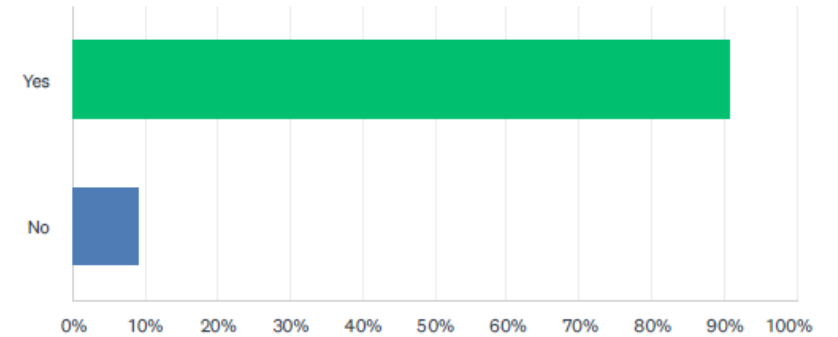
Q2 In the past, SCALE has supported a number of capital investment projects requesting state funding for our communities. As there was no capital (bonding) bill in the 2024 session, SCALE should prioritize these projects in 2025.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



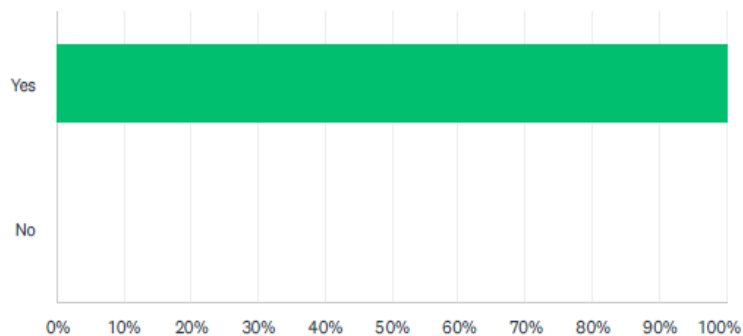
Q3 SCALE should continue to expend lobbying efforts to retain local control over street improvement fees and maintain local control over affordable housing and zoning restrictions.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



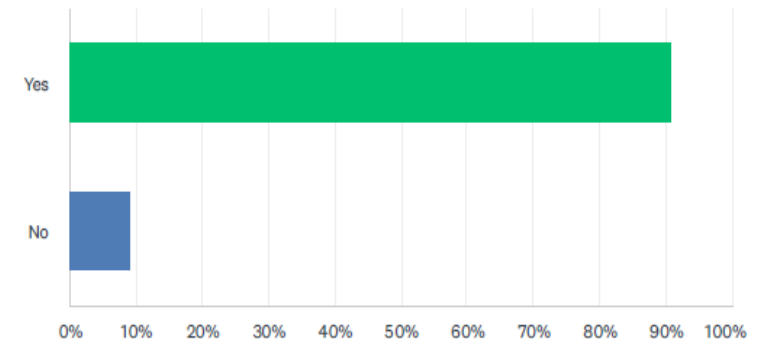
Q4 SCALE has historically placed a very high priority on the education provided our citizens. Whether this is in support of programming or school safety, SCALE should continue focusing efforts in this area.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



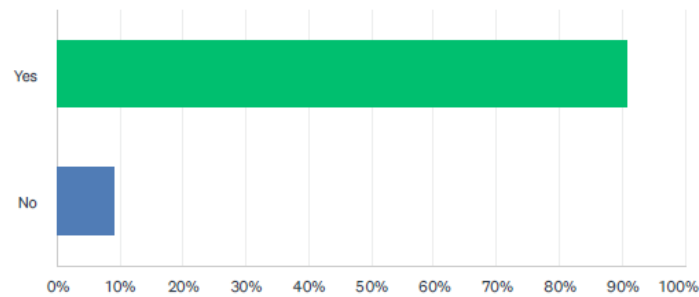
Q5 SCALE should continue its lobbying efforts in the economic sector, whether to emphasize business development or to meet the workforce needs in our area.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



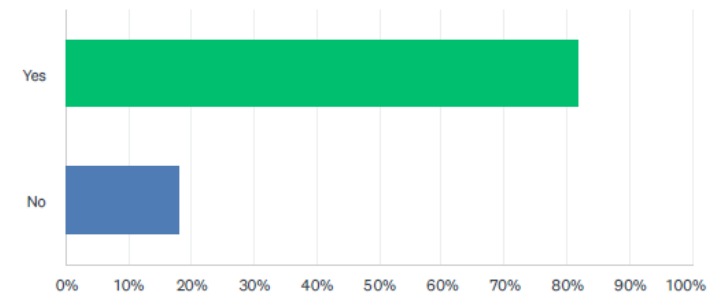
Q6 Many SCALE member entities are now also dealing with the effects of mandated employee benefit programs (e.g., Paid Family Medical Leave and the Earned Sick and Safe Act). Should SCALE put forth lobbying efforts to mitigate or minimize the cost and complexity that may result from these recent changes?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



Q7 Recent sessions' legislation saw the enactment of legalization of cannabis and the extension of new reporting requirements to the Campaign Finance Board for elected (and some non-elected) individuals. Should SCALE should expend lobbying efforts to advocate for better clarity in these areas and better guidance from the state on these topics?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



Carry Over 2024 Priorities

Capital Bonding

Improvements to Quentin Avenue and bridges in Savage

Louisville Segment of the Merriam Junction Trail

Innovation Center

Interstate 35W and County Road 2 Interchange Development

Housing

The incremental costs of growth to be paid for by development

The swift implementation of the 2023 legislative housing investments and a sustained increase to state funding for dwelling options across the housing lifecycle

Education

Legislation that addresses chronic school absenteeism

Transportation

Road bridges

Capital Bonding

Dakota Scott Joint Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Housing

Increased flexibility in the utilization of LAHA and SAHA funds

Education

Invest funds into TRA to reduce the retirement age of teachers to 60

Increase the per pupil formula an additional 2% beyond the built-in inflationary increase to help pay for unfunded mandates from the previous legislative sessions

Increase funding for Q-Comp to allow all districts in the state the opportunity to participate

Environment

SWCD State Aid is being cut by 20% in 2025 (\$15m to \$12m) which results in a decrease in our ability to provide services to Scott County residents

Proposed Additional Priorities for 2025²⁰

Workforce

Paid Family Medical Leave

Earned Sick & Safe Time

Cannabis (clarity)

Local Government

Eliminate the need for public notices to be published in newspapers and allow to be online

Rural Areas - Funding for aging road and bridge infrastructure, expansion and improvement of broadband and rural business development

Supporting legislation to allow cities to collect franchise fees on internet/data services

Maximize, retain and develop high-wage jobs and business that are net positives to our fiscal future

Childcare, access to housing, access to food, access to transportation, pathways to the work

Support increased flexibility in Open Meeting Law

Campaign Finance Reporting Legislation (clarity)

Capital Bonding

Improvements to Quentin Avenue and bridges in Savage

Louisville Segment of the Merriam Junction Trail

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Road Bridges

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Campaign Finance Reporting Legislation (clarity)