

AMSD Position on Shared Services

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts opposes legislation mandating participation in shared services agreements. Instead, the state should support voluntary shared services efforts by establishing a web site to share information about shared service opportunities and expanding the goods and services available through the Cooperative Purchasing Venture.

AMSD BELIEVES

- School districts have a long history of collaboration and service sharing.
- State policymakers should review, and repeal or amend, laws that limit or hinder district collaboration.
- The State should provide greater incentives for school district combination, consolidation and collaboration.
- The State should create a website to provide information about shared services opportunities detailing specific information about the arrangement and including contact information for districts interested in joining.

BACKGROUND

Minnesota School Districts have been cooperating with each other and other governmental units for many years. This includes collaborating on both purchased services and commodities.

Intermediate school districts, integration districts, joint powers agreements and service cooperatives have been established to increase efficiency and enhance services to students. School districts have created joint purchasing pools to purchase goods and services including; technology, special education, food, office supplies, maintenance, and insurance. In addition, school districts use the State's Cooperative Purchasing Venture to negotiate prices with vendors.



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