Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2026 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

A survey of membership on AMSD
for the 2026 Legislative Season

June 2026

29 respondents

20 Superintendents, 3 School Board Members, 3 Other, 3 anonymous

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AMSD Day at the Capitol 2026

AMSD hosted its Day at the Capitol on April 13, 2026.

	Did you attend the Day at the Capitol?	**Yes**	**No**	
		17	7	
	Did you find the day valuable?	**Very valuable**	**Somewhat valuable**	**Not at all.**
		15	2	0
	Was the time convenient?	**Easy**	**Neither difficult or convenient**	**Difficult**
		18	3	0
	Did you schedule meetings with your local legislators during the Day at the Capitol?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**
		14	4	1
	What could make the day better?			
	I thought it was well-run. I don't have any suggested improvements.			
	I would suggest a QR code to the AMSD Bill Tracker and perhaps committee meetings for that day for attendees to access. In this way, bills can be highlighted during remarks to the group. Secondly, the bill tracker is helpful in conversations with legislators for reference and language specifics.			
	It was great!			
	It would be good to have a something that individuals from participating districts could carry/wear that demonstrates that we are part of the larger AMSD presence. Even an AMSD-branded sticker or button. The design could include a tagline from the upcoming Minnesota Kids Rise campaign.			
	Nothing - it was just a different kind of year.			
	Nothing. Current format is great!			
	Very Well done!			
	Was fine			
	With a small handful of legislators, doing masa and amsd days while making appointments does not make sense. I am not sure what would be helpful but maybe some panel of legislators or chairs to give organized access to those in power might be extra helpful.			

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POSITION PAPERS

Do the AMSD position papers represent the needs of your district and what is important to your community?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful		
	24	4	0		

	How could AMSD improve our position papers, or are there additional topics for position papers that AMSD should consider?
	I don't know. I haven't read these.
	na
	Our diatrict-specific positions align with AMSD positions.
	PCAE is not a "regular" school district, we are a state agency. Even so, the government relations material is invaluable to us.
	Screen time and technology use is increasingly under attack. Ed tech (SaaS costs) as curriculum is more digital Standards—too many across all content areas. Current standards don't fit in a school year.

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Communicating with Legislators

How frequently you communicated with elected officials, AMSD Calls to Action, and Legislative Alerts

Did you communicate regularly with your elected representatives during the legislative session?	Not at all	1-2 times during the session	About once a week	Every other week or so	Monthly
		6	4	5	10

Other (please specify)
Communication frequency was based on specific issues and/or questions from legislators.
As needed.
District administrators, board members, and community members of our legislative advocacy committee communicate with elected reps year-round
I'm new to this District, so I only met with one legislator, but I intend to increase that next year.
Maybe even more than weekly depending on the week.
Mostly directly with our district's legislative liaison.
My representatives don't engage with the school district.
This year we contacted over 50 legislators. Some were contacted multiple times depending on their committee assignments.

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COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Which AMSD resources you use to stay informed about what is happening at the Capitol

	Email Updates	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		28	1		
	AMSD Webpage	9	16	2	
	Connections Newsletter	12	11	5	
	Bill Tracker	11	15	1	
	Position Papers	18	8	3	
Other research (Cross-Subsidy Comparisons, etc.)					
		2	**4**	**10**	
	Other				
	AMSD meeting recordings				

	In addition to updates on legislative action, the weekly emails include updates on the MN Department of Education, PELSB, State and Federal Grant Opportunities, and links to newspaper articles. Please indicate how valuable you find each of these. (You may select more than one choice)				
	Legislative Updates	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		28	1		
	MDE Updates	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		23	3	2	
	PELSB Updates	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		16	10	2	
	Grant Opportunities	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		11	14	3	
	Newspaper / Magazine Articles	**Very Valuable**	**Somewhat Valuable**	**Not valuable**	
		13	14		
	Other				
	The MDE updates seemed like a copy paste of what we would get in our superintendent letter. Therefore, that part was helpful. To the extent Grant articles and other things are already included in the MDE update. I wouldn't need them reiterated here.				

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AMSD CORRESPONDENCE

How do you engage the following correspondence from AMSD?

Do you read the AMSD Weekly Email Updates?

	I read it in my email.	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
		26	3		
	I forward the email to district staff.				
		10	11	3	1
	I forward the email to parents, parent groups or non-district employees.				
		1	5	4	15
	Comments:				
	Communications from AMSD inform what the district communicates to our community. I rarely forward the entire email to anyone else, but I often summarize the content. I find the format with photos a little cumbersome. For my purposes, I'd prefer a straight text. But, I recognize that could be just a me thing.				

	Did you find our weekly email updates helpful in keeping informed and providing information to assist you in tracking legislation and helping you communicate with your local legislators?				
		Very helpful	**Somewhat helpful**	**Not helpful**	**Comments:**
		27	1		
	How often do you read the AMSD Weekly Email Updates?	**I open and read every email**	**Sometimes**	**Rarely**	**Never**
		28		1	
	Connections	**I open and read every email**	**Sometimes**	**Rarely**	**Never**
		14	**12**	**2**	
	Would you have liked to receive email communications and calls for engagement more or less frequently?	**More frequently**	**Less frequently**	**The amount of communication was appropriate**	**Other**
		1	0	28	
	What is most useful, or could make our email updates / legislative alerts better?				
	Currently at the appropriate level na Not always clear when action needs to be taken				

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AMSD BOARD MEETINGS

Importance of different hosted events throughout the Session and year

	AMSD Monthly Board Meetings (no meeting in June or July)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		20	5	1		
	The past year we heard presentations from AMSD Superintendents/Board Members about initiatives in their districts. Would you like to continue having presentations from AMSD members on local initiatives part of the AMSD Board meeting agenda?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**		
		28		1		
	Would you be interested in sharing a 20-30 minute presentation at a future board meeting to highlight a program or initiative in your school district?	**Yes**	**No**	**Other**		
		7	5	7		
	If you are interested or have suggestions, please provide your name, district information, and any additional information.					
	Bloomington always happy to chip in and present on any appropriate topic (computer science, crisis management/risk assessments, legislative advocacy efforts, finance strategy, etc.) Unified Programming We did this year. Happy to in the future We have shared about our student's legislative and policy work. We would also be happy to share about our Experiential Learning programs.					
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions for guest speakers for future AMSD board meetings.					
	I enjoy legislative updates and panels. I also enjoy sharing best practices going on in other districts (legislative advocacy ideas, programmatic and policy efforts) It is ALWAYS great to hear directly from state legislators. na Perhaps reserve part of the agenda one month for a facilitated networking activity amongst in-person attendees. It could be advertised so as to draw more in-person attendance. Perhaps Zoom participants could divide into breakout rooms for their own interactive activity.					

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AMSD BOARD MEETINGS

In-person, hybrid and virtual meeting preferences

	There are 11 monthly AMSD Board of Directors meetings (two meetings in May and no meetings in June or July). The meetings are held in a hybrid format. A strong majority of board members are choosing to participate virtually. Should we reduce the number of hybrid meetings and hold some virtual only? (For example, quarterly hybrid meetings and the rest virtual only?)	Yes, I would support having quarterly hybrid meetings and the rest virtual.	Yes, I would support having some virtual only meetings but I think at least half of the meetings should be hybrid.	No, I support the current format of hybrid meetings.	Other	
		11	5	9	1	

No, I support the current format of hybrid meetings.

I support making a concerted effort to draw more people to in-person attendance.(see idea about including a networking activity in the agenda for one or more meetings. I'm happy to help brainstorm and organize facilitation for this.—Sally Browne)

I think you should be clear upfront as to whether they presenters are going to be virtual or in person. I always find out. We are to drive someplace and hear a virtual presenter. If they're going to be virtual, we might as well be.

I'd like to communicate and better promote in person attendance before we adjust

	Do you find the meetings more valuable, less valuable, or the same when you attend in person?	More valuable	Less valuable	Same		
		12		11		

But I enjoy to option to go remote as my schedule sometimes dictates

I have only participated virtually.

It all depends on what's being presented. If there's discussion with colleagues, I'd want that in person. If we're listening to a virtual speaker, I don't want that virtual. Reiterating my last comment here, but there is no point to drive to a place and listen to somebody talk to me virtually. Even though I love the breakfast :-)

Networking is great-- however I felt like the meetings were less attended this year.

Opportunity to connect and network with colleagues.

We only attend in person if we expect to see our legislators there

It's hard to have hybrid and such a small group in the room. It is a disincentive to attend in person.

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AMSD EVENTS

Importance of different hosted events throughout the Session and year

	AMSD Policy Conference (Annually held in November)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		13	9	3		
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions or feedback on the annual conference.					
	AMSD Legislative Preview (Annually held in January or February)	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★
		23	3	1		
	Please share any topic ideas or suggestions or feedback on the legislative preview.					
	I feel like something needs to improve. I don't think we're getting much listening from our legislators from these meetings. In my mind, it should always be the education finance and policy chairs. We should find a Friday that works for them and then present to them as a group. I also don't think the way that we've been having superintendent present is effective. Spending time on presenting about their districts is a waste of time. We need to be more targeted with a clear message for the legislators in the room. This is what we need and will you support it. N/A none Perhaps best practice ideas that could be shared regarding advocating with legislators more effectively					

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AMSD WEBSITE

How often you visit the web page for specific purposes

Contact Information for AMSD Member Districts and Legislators	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	2	5	13	6
Legislative Session Information	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	9	11	7	
AMSD Position Papers	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	4	11	12	
Research and Statistics	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	3	6	15	2
Current and Past AMSD Presentations	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	2	10	14	1
Connections Newsletters	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	3	6	8	10
Board of Directors Meeting Handouts	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	5	17	4	1
Calendar of Meetings and Events	**Once a week or more**	**Once a month or more**	**3-6 times a year**	**Never**
	4	10	12	1
Other (please specify)				

Website feedback: Is there any content not provided,
or anything that could improve the usability of the AMSD web page?

Comments:				

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FINAL COMMENTS

Comments:
Appreciate the AMSD Team - thank you!
Great work. We appreciate all the guidance and support.
I find AMSD extremely helpful and greatly value the organization. I am appreciative of the support, resources, and opportunities for collaboration that AMSD provides, as well as its strong advocacy for public education. Thank you for all you do to support school leaders and districts across MN.
This was my first year in the group. I found it extremely valuable in helping to support the work we do at PCAE.
Legislative Platform should remain in person as an option.