Association of Metropolitan School Districts

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2025

Keeping Students at the Center

Persistent inflation, staff shortages, rising labor costs, and new requirements and expectations have created significant budget and operational challenges for school districts.

AMSD urges the Governor and Legislators to address the priorities listed below to stabilize school district budgets, mitigate staff layoffs, and allow school districts to successfully implement the new mandates enacted during the last biennium.

Funding Priorities

- Increase the basic formula by 3 percent over current law for FY26;
- Fully fund the mandates adopted during the last biennium including establishing a permanent funding stream for the Unemployment Insurance and Paid Leave programs;
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to $974 per pupil effective for FY27 and link it to the formula;
- Hold all districts harmless from a reduction in compensatory revenue and stabilize the formula by calculating eligibility on the basis of both direct certification and the application for education benefits;
- Retain and expand the Q Comp program to allow additional school districts to participate;
- Increase literacy incentive aid to help all school districts successfully implement the Read Act; and
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum and local optional levies in the tax bill to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.

ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 47 K-12 school districts and six intermediate / cooperative districts. AMSD member school districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota, with the mission to lead the transformation of public education.

AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.

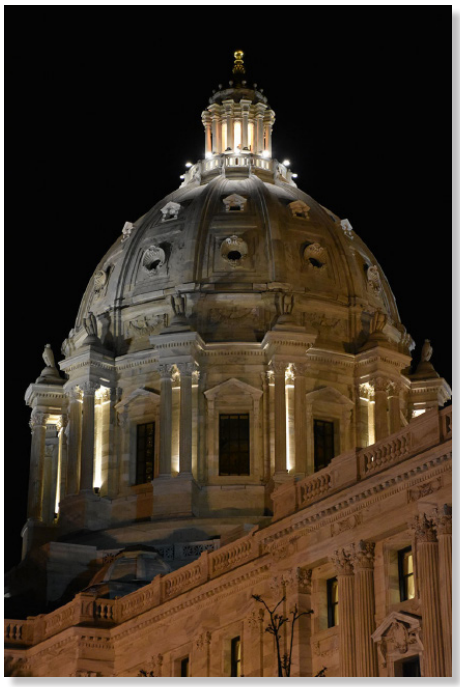
Association of Metropolitan School Districts

MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka Hennepin Schools • Bloomington Public Schools • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • BrightWorks • Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River Area Schools • Farmington Area Public Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hastings School District • Hopkins Public Schools • Intermediate School District 287 • Intermediate School District 917 • Inver Grove Heights Schools • Lakeville Area Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public Schools • Mankato Area Public Schools • Minneapolis Public Schools • Minnetonka Public Schools • Mounds View Public Schools • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916 • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northwest Suburban Integration School 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 School District • St. Cloud School District • St. Louis Park Public Schools • St. Michael-Albertville Schools • St. Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Schools

POLICY PRIORITIES

- Refrain from enacting any new mandates in the 2025 session;
- Provide flexibility with instructional hour requirements to allow school districts to expand personalized and experiential learning opportunities for students such as asynchronous learning, internships, and project-based learning;
- Repeal the requirement that locally elected school boards negotiate e-learning days, student testing, and student-to-staff ratios;
- Allow school boards to renew existing capital project levies one-time after a public hearing;
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam;
- Allow limited removal time from class with Non-Exclusionary Discipline to enable schools to plan effective reentry supports and interventions to ensure safe classrooms;
- Require individuals submitting a data request to identify themself and the organization they represent and allow districts to recover the costs of redacting nonpublic information;
- Allow locally elected school boards to adopt the school calendar and election cycle that best meets the needs of their students, staff and community;
- Allow school districts to publish official proceedings on the district website in lieu of publishing them in a newspaper; and
- Eliminate the state requirement of a three-day notice for remote school board meeting access.



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