Background on AMSD Friend of Public Education Award

The AMSD Friend of Public Education Award was initiated in 2001. The award was established to recognize state legislators who supported AMSD's legislative priorities and public education generally. Another goal was to build relationships with state policymakers.

The initial plan was to recognize one senator and one house member from each majority caucus. However, the award has evolved over the years. Honorees have included parent leaders, higher education leaders, MDE staff and Consultant Paula Forbes who facilitated AMSD's Reimagine Minnesota initiative. In 2016, Congressman John Kline and Senator Al Franken were recognized for their respective roles in passing the federal Every *Student Succeeds Act*. (ESSA) This marked the first, and only, time congressional representatives were recognized.

A legislator has not been recognized since 2018, and the award has not been issued since 2021 for a variety of reasons not the least of which is the increased political polarization in recent years.

Past Winners of AMSD's Friend of Public Education Award

2001	Rep. Alice Seagren Sen. Steve Kelley	
2002	Rep. Ron Abrams Sen. Larry Pogemiller	
2003	Rep. Barb Sykora Sen. Ann Rest	Eunice Slager Ellen Young Pam Costain
2004	John Gunyou Art Rolnick	
2005	Rep. Doug Meslow Sen. Linda Scheid	
2006	Rep. Erik Paulsen Sen. Chuck Wiger	Ward Eames Mary Cecconi
2007	Rep. Mindy Greiling Sen. Terri Bonoff	
2008	Rep. John Benson Rep. Carol McFarlane Sen. Kathy Saltzman	
2009	Rep. Jim Davnie	

	Rep. Mindy Greiling	
	Rep. Kim Norton	
	Sen. Sandy Rummel	
2010	Rep. Jerry Newton	
2011	Governor Mark Dayton	
	Sen. Gen Olson	
	Rep. Connie Doepke	
2012	Rep. Carol McFarlane	
	Rep. Denise Dittrich	
2013	Rep. Carlos Mariani	Rep. Jim Davnie
	Rep. Ann Lenczewski	Sen. Patricia Torres Ray
	Rep. John Benson	Sen. Ann Rest
2014	Rep. Paul Marquart	Sen. Eric Pratt
	Sen. Chuck Wiger	Sen. Greg Clausen
2015	Governor Mark Dayton	
	Rep. Jenifer Loon	
	Sen. Chuck Wiger	
2016	Senator Al Franken	
	Congressman John Kline	
2017	Rep. Jenifer Loon	Rep. Sondra Erickson
	Sen. Carla Nelson	Sen. Eric Pratt
	Gov. Mark Dayton (lifetime achievement)	
2018	Sen. Sandy Pappas	Sen. Julie Rosen
	Rep. Tim O'Driscoll	
2019	Dr. Tom Melcher	
2020	Dr. Nicola Alexander & Dr. Michael Rodriguez	
2021	Paula Forbes	
2022	None	
2023	None	
2024	None	