The AMSD Board of Directors recognizes that the 2020 session is not a budget-setting session. At the same time, it is critical that state policymakers understand that Minnesota’s education funding system is not providing adequate, equitable or reliable resources for our schools.

As the chart below shows, the basic education formula would be $639 per pupil higher today if it had simply kept pace with inflation since 2003. Similarly, federal and state funding for special education and English learner programming falls far short of what is needed to provide important and mandated services.

AMSD remains committed to closing the opportunity and achievement gaps to ensure equitable academic outcomes – high levels of achievement – for each and every student. Accordingly, the AMSD Board of Directors urges the Governor and Legislators to address the priorities listed on this platform.

**STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING**

- Link the basic formula to inflation to provide a stable and consistent funding stream that allows school boards and administrators to engage in long-range planning;
- Allow locally-elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same level; and
- Increase special education and English learner funding to reduce the shortfalls in these important programs.
MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin School District • Bloomington Public Schools • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River School District ISD #728 • Equity Alliance MN • Farmington Area Public Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hopkins Public Schools • Intermediate School District #287 • Intermediate School District #917 • Inver Grove Heights Schools • Lakeville Area Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public Schools • Metro ECSU • Minneapolis Public Schools • Minnetonka Public Schools • Mounds View Public Schools • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District #916 • Northwest Suburban Integration 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 Independent School District • St. Cloud Area School District 742 • St. Louis Park Public Schools • Saint Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westtonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Area Schools

ENSURE SAFE AND MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff to address the mental health needs of our students; and
- Remove the per-pupil limit and expand the allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Revenue to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to enhance safety through security modifications, remodeling and additions to existing buildings.

INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE EDUCATOR WORKFORCE

- Expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas; and
- Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.

REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

- Oppose any new unfunded mandates and reduce existing unfunded mandates;
- Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students;
- Allow referendum notices to be mailed before the start of early voting;
- Expand the Innovation Zone law to include more school districts and expand flexibility to encourage initiatives such as allowing a school district to replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam if approved by the United States Department of Education; and
- Repeal the requirement that a percentage of compensatory revenue be spent on extended time programming.

ENHANCE TAXPAYER EQUITY

- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities; and
- Oppose taxpayer subsidies of non-public education through vouchers, tax credits or scholarships.

ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 41 K-12 school districts, five intermediate/cooperative districts and two integration districts. AMSD member districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota. The mission of AMSD is to advocate for metropolitan school districts and advance legislation that supports student achievement. AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.