



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2020

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.

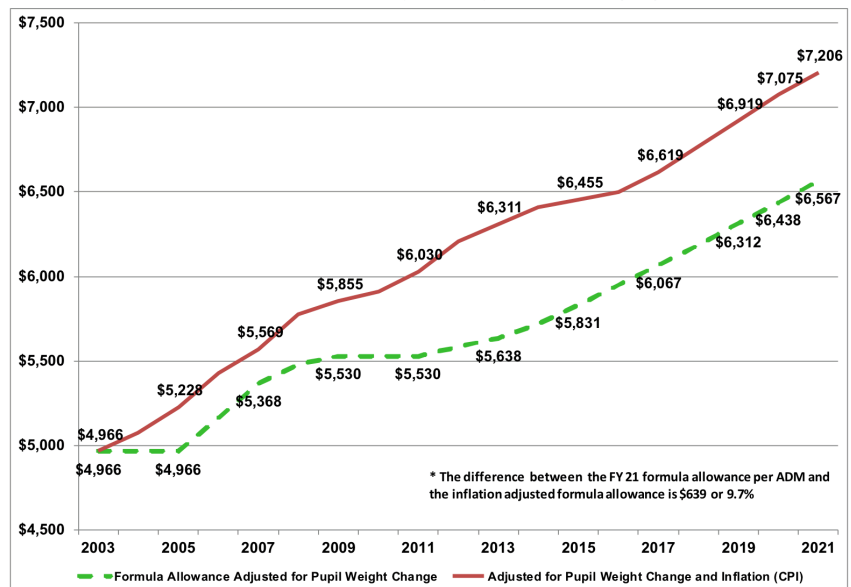
AMSD remains committed to closing the opportunity and achievement gaps to ensure equitable academic outcomes – high levels of achievement – for each and every student. Accordingly, the AMSD Board of Directors urges the Governor and Legislators to address the priorities listed on this platform.



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.

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2021
Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE August 2019 Inflation Estimates

AMSD Association of Metropolitan School Districts EHLERS



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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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.



Association of Metropolitan School Districts
 2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380
 Arden Hills, MN 55112
 612-430-7750