



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • www.amsd.org

2021 Legislative Platform Survey Summary

Below is a list of the most frequently identified issues by AMSD board members and school district staff in a survey seeking input on legislative priorities for the 2021 legislative session. The number in parentheses indicates how many times respondents identified that issue within the top three priorities. A total of 25 responses were received. (*Context:* AMSD received 27 responses in 2019, 36 responses in 2018, and 34 responses in 2017).

Policy Issues

Allow boards to approve existing and new referendum (11)

Safe Schools/Mental Health funding (9)

Increase Teachers of Color (8)

Distance Learning restrictions better explained, more flexibility (4)

COVID guidance (4)

Tiered Licensure flexibility (4)

Special Education requirements flexibility and paperwork reduction (3)

School boards allowed to set school calendar (2)

Public Notices: More flexibility and alternatives (3)

Unfunded mandates (4)

Revision of "wage theft" for school districts (2)

Additional topics included:

- Change the words "levy to the maximum" on the preliminary levy obligation in Sept/Oct to something less expensive sounding
- FBA/ADSIS integration.
- Local control to design learning around the needs of our learners
- Reset of Q comp goals
- School lunch revenue replacement
- Focus on the achievement and opportunity Gap
- Stronger Innovation Zone Bill
- Repeal the mandate to pass a yearly resolution to approve polling places for the following year.
- Continued opposition of diversion of funds via "vouchers."
- Cursive writing instruction required
- Unemployment compensation reform
- Limit transportation for open enrolled students (districts cannot drive into another district to pick up students)
- Restrict open enrollment to moves that foster more economic diversity in the two districts
- Expand allowable uses of LTFM to include modifications of buildings for safety/security
- Give districts flexibility to show student mastery of standards that isn't just state test



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Funding Issues

Special Education funding cross-subsidy (25)

Tie state funding to inflation (22)

English Learner funding cross-subsidy (9)

COVID-related expenses: unemployment, childcare, etc. (8)

Levy and Debt Service Equalization (5)

Additional topics included:

- School lunch program reimbursement for indigent students
- No taxpayer subsidies for nonpublic schools
- Perhaps adjustments to the AID dollars to focus attention on students of color who were adversely
- Continued Funding of Pre K Programs
- Dedicated funding for IT needs
- Ensuring internet for all students
- Support School Media/Learning commons LMS programs
- Provide more funding to districts for mentoring and grow your own programs
- Use 2019 ADM and FRL counts for 2020 school year
- Prioritize geographic differences in cost of living