



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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

# 2022 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 2022 legislative session. The number in parentheses indicates how many times respondents identified that issue within the top three priorities. A total of 24 responses were received. (*Context:* AMSD received 25 responses in 2020; 27 responses in 2019, 36 responses in 2018, and 34 responses in 2017).

## Policy Issues

- ALLOW BOARD RENEWAL OF REFERENDUMS/LEVIES (11)
- OPPOSE / ELIMINATE MANDATES (5)
- ELIMINATE / REDUCE MCA TESTING (5)
- COMPENSATORY FUNDING REFORM (5)
- FLEXIBILITY WITH ONLINE LEARNING (4)
- INCREASE TEACHERS OF COLOR (4)
- REFORM INSTRUCTIONAL SEAT TIME REQUIREMENT (2)
- SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY (2)
- TEACHER LICENSURE FLEXIBILITY (2)

### **Additional topics included:**

- Open meeting law should be updated so that use of technology can increase flexibility and inclusion w/respect to public meetings
- Base Graduation on standards not credits
- Simply MA billing for schools for both MH services and under free care provisions
- Allow school districts to annually place up to 2% of their tenured staff back on probation status.
- Increase in Literacy Incentive Aid - performance-based funding
- Oppose any bills that limit school district local control around curriculum selection, oppose all forms of vouchers
- If private schools get public \$, they abide by same rules/accountability standards as Public Schools
- Funding usage increase of flexibility
- Career and Technical Education staffing flexibility for trades classes



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- State-provided transportation for open enrollment in response to Cruz-Gusman proposed settlement
- Repeal the "Personal Belief Exemption" in MN Stated. 121A.15, Subd. 3(d). This statute allows unvaccinated children to enroll in child care and schools. Other states have repealed similar statutes in order to promote public health.
- Ways to partially blend and combine Education & HHS (+Labor/Commerce??) must be found; Education alone cannot address the challenges that provide barriers to student success (stable housing, living wage employment, access to medical and mental health care)
- Expand the allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to enhance safety through security modifications to buildings, including remodeling and additions to existing space.
- Curriculum standards, especially related to ethnic studies
- Mental & Emotional Health support for students & families
- Health and Safety

## **Funding Issues**

- SPECIAL EDUCATION / CROSS-SUBSIDY / REFORM (22)
- INCREASE FORMULA / TIE TO INFLATION (14)
- INCREASE REFERENDUM / DEBT SERVICE EQUALIZATION (6)
- EL FUNDING (4)
- VPK PERMANENT FUNDING (4)
- INCREASE LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE REVENUE AND EXPAND ALLOWABLE USES (2)

### **Additional topics included:**

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff to address the growing mental health needs of our students which have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Safe schools levy increase
- Fund broad band/tech so we have equitable access across the state
- Oppose vouchers, tax credits, or scholarships
- Funding usage increase of flexibility
- Fed and state fully funding mandates
- Better salaries for teachers & staff



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- Additional LOR funding for districts in the lowest quintile for aid from the State
- Sale of unused school district property (closed schools)
- Mitigate, if necessary, funding due to enrollment loss
- If GEER \$ is available, allocate evenly.
- State-Level COVID-19 Relief for districts in the lowest quintile of Federal COVID-19 relief funding

### **Constitutional Amendment**

**The Page Constitutional Amendment. Which statement best describes your position on the Page Amendment:**

- I support amending the constitution to make a quality public education a fundamental right but I have concerns about the language proposed by former Justice Page and Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank President Neel Kashkari. (15)
- The current constitutional language is strong and does not need to be amended. (5)
- I support the proposed constitutional amendment as presented by former Justice Alan Page and Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank President Neel Kashkari. (1)

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### **Additional Comments**

More money on the formula is important as Geer money is for one time spending. Funding needs in Health and Safety was largely ignored last session, but still a priority.

MN's entire Charter School system needs to be assessed to see if we are doing what Charter Schools were meant to do: Pilots for creative, innovative ways to educate, with results reported back to public schools where successes could be replicated/adopted and failures/no change could be discontinued. Right now, we pour public \$ into many schools that are used to segregate students and failing Charters continue for years. :(

What could AMSD's role be in helping legislators find common ground on the priorities of Reimagine MN? Thank you for all you do for all the AMSD member districts!

I encourage AMSD to explore "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future," with the hope that Minnesota could create its own blueprint.

COVID-19 is not over and we will have other costs of operating in a COVID-19 environment that the latest rounds of restrictions on Federal Relief Funding will not allow to be covered.



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AMSD is providing an excellent service for educators. Thank you.

AMSD (And Scott) are great partners, and I really appreciate their support.

Love this Assoc. and the work they do!