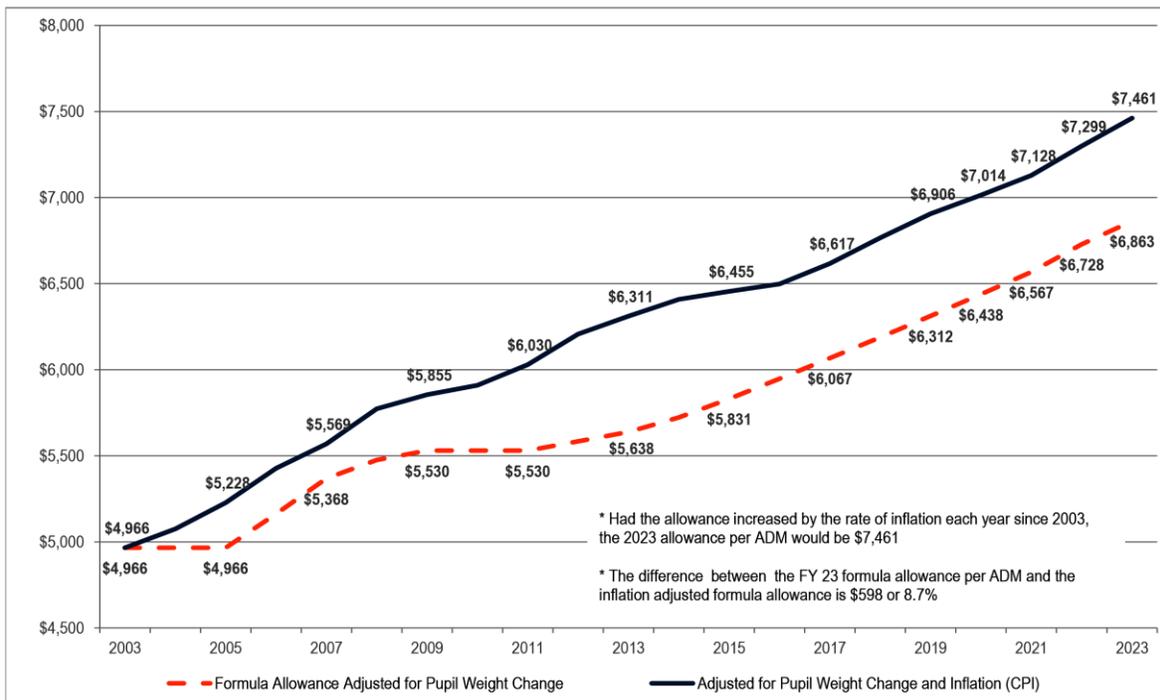


Association of Metropolitan School Districts 2022 Legislative Platform

The AMSD Board of Directors recognizes that the 2022 session is not a budget-setting session. As the same time, it is critical that state policymakers understand that Minnesota’s current 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 \$598 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.

General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2023 Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



Source: MDE Inflation Estimates, July 2021

Association of Metropolitan School Districts

AMSD is committed to helping students recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and closing opportunity gaps based on race and socioeconomic status. The federal government provided significant, one-time emergency funding over the past two years to help school districts address technology and internet connectivity, increased transportation costs, personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies, and the loss of revenue related to enrollment decline. However, the federal aid is one-time funding and does not negate the need for reliable and predictable state funding.

The AMSD Board of Directors urges the Governor and Legislators to stabilize the education funding system by addressing the following critical issues in the 2022 legislative session.

STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING

- Link the basic formula and local optional revenue 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;
- Increase special education and English learner funding to reduce the shortfalls in these important programs; and
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.

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

- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff;
- Continue to expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers of color; and
- Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.

REDUCE MANDATES AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

Oppose any new unfunded mandates and allow school districts greater flexibility to:

- Implement a competency-based education model in lieu of seat time requirements;
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam;
- Post minutes and budget information on the district website rather than be published in a newspaper;
- Establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students and community; and
- Recover the rapidly escalating costs associated with data information requests.

About: The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 44 K-12 school districts, five intermediate/ cooperative districts and two integration districts. AMSD member school 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.

AMSD Members: Anoka-Hennepin School District • Bloomington Public Schools • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth 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 • Hastings 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 • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Area Schools