



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 380, Arden Hills, MN 55112 • 612-430-7750 • [www.amsd.org](http://www.amsd.org)

### **AMS D Legislative Priorities 2022**

Minnesota's education funding system is not providing adequate, equitable or reliable resources for our schools. The state budget surplus offers state policymakers the opportunity to stabilize the funding system and help students recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The AMS D Board of Directors urges the Governor and Legislature to address the following priorities.

#### **Stabilize Education Funding**

- Increase special education and English learner funding to eliminate, or greatly reduce, the significant cross-subsidies (shortfalls) in these important programs;
- Index the general education formula and local optional revenue to inflation;
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum; and
- Increase equalization of the local optional revenue, operating referendum, debt service levies, and long-term facilities maintenance revenue levies.

#### **Support Student Mental Health and Personalize Learning**

- Provide resources to school districts and intermediate districts through the Safe Schools levy, state aid, and grants to address the mental health needs of students;
- Allow school districts to implement a competency-based education model in lieu of seat time requirements to allow for personalized learning opportunities for students; and
- Modernize the online learning law to expand opportunities for students.

#### **Increase and Diversify the Educator Workforce**

- Create new pathways to licensure for substitute teachers and maintain multiple pathways to teacher licensure in the tiered licensing system;
- Invest in rigorous teacher induction and mentoring programs; and
- Expand incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas.