

March 3, 2022

Honorable Jeremy Miller
3113 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Melisa López Franzen
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Melissa Hortman
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Kurt Daudt
267 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Majority Leader Miller, Minority Leader Franzen, Speaker Hortman and Minority Leader Daudt:

As you consider supplemental budget priorities for the 2022 legislative session, we urge you to make stabilizing Minnesota's education funding system one of your highest priorities. Two major state policy changes adopted in 2001 and 2002 – repealing the general education levy and removing projected inflation from the state budget forecast – have greatly destabilized Minnesota's education funding system.

Monday's announcement from Minnesota Management and Budget of another \$1.55 billion for a total surplus of \$9.25 billion certainly provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to use under \$1 billion to stabilize our funding system. At a minimum, we urge you to:

- Eliminate the special education cross-subsidy;
- Eliminate the English learner cross-subsidy; and
- Make meaningful investments in the mental health need of our students.

These investments would greatly stabilize the funding for our districts.

Eliminating the special education cross-subsidy would benefit **EVERY** school district in the state - all 850,000 students. In addition, it would benefit property taxpayers by making school districts less reliant on operating referendums. School board members and administrators would be able to plan beyond the next year and implement strategies and reforms that have proven effective in raising achievement for all students. Minnesota's future prosperity is directly tied to a strong and vibrant public education system. The time is now to stabilize our education funding system.

Eliminating the EL cross-subsidy and investing in students' mental health would help stabilize those lives most affected by COVID.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the 2022 session.

Sincerely,

Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)



Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD)



Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE)



Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA)



Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)



Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)



Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association



Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA)



Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)



Copy: Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Gov. Flanagan
Commissioner Mueller