



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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

2023 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 2023 legislative session. The number in parentheses indicates how many times respondents identified that issue. A total of 48 responses were received. (*Context:* AMSD received 24 responses in 2021; 25 responses in 2020; 27 responses in 2019, 36 responses in 2018, and 34 responses in 2017).

Funding Issues

- Reduce cross-subsidies (59)
(Primarily Special Education Cross-Subsidy and/or SPED and ELL; 9 responses specified only the ELL cross-subsidy)
- Increase formula /Tie formula to inflation (41)
- School safety / Mental health supports (12)
- Allow districts to renew operating levies by board approval (11)
- Increase long-term facilities maintenance revenue and expand the allowable uses (6)
- Fully fund school meals (5)
- VPK permanent funding (5)
- Increase levy equalization (3)

Additional topics identified:

- Establish a different formula to identify students for compensatory funding
- Opposition to private school voucher system
- Activities funding equity
- Improve graduation rates



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Policy Issues

- Reform instructional seat time requirement/More flexibility with online learning/Enhance local control (school calendar etc.) (12)
- Increase teachers of color (12)
- Teacher licensure flexibility (12)
- Curriculum instruction flexibility (10)
Examples include: alternative pathways to graduation, enabling more students to take advantage of early middle college, expand career-tech opportunities, reform math standards, financial literacy, recess, etc.
- Oppose /Eliminate mandates (10)
- Oppose vouchers (7)
- Eliminate / Reduce MCA testing (5)
- Reasonable costs legislation for data requests (3)
- Reforming special education tuition billing (3)

Additional topics identified:

- Expand allowable uses of building lease levy
- Provide equitable resources for students EK12 - consider access for marginalized students to resources, transportation, before and after school programs, ect.
- Protect MN standards from partisan politics
- Reduce the MN SPED requirements to match federal requirements
- Continue reductions of non-instructional requirements in Special Education Legislation
- Bullying/Harassment continues to be a hot topic in our system
- Support ECFE programs - reduce inequities in access to opportunities
- Childcare ratio expansion
- Specify baseline parent/family engagement requirements for all districts



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- Reinstatement of 403(b) language that was inadvertently stricken
- Consider establishing standards for school board behavior?
- Buttress against supposed curriculum transparency laws.
- Eliminate LIFO
- Extended time revenue for students in residential treatment programs
- Under Safe & Supportive Schools: Include Gun Storage Safety information to be shared with families;
- Under Weapons Free Schools include giving school boards authority to ban guns stored in vehicles parked on school property.

Specific Mandates

Please list any specific mandates you would like to see repealed:

- Requirement to post minutes and budget information in a printed newspaper rather than strictly on the district or public website (4)
 - Replace the MCA with college entrance exams and local tools.
 - Bachelor degree requirement for short call sub license
 - Parents Bill of Rights
 - Algebra 2 for graduation
 - LTFM pay as you go funds should not be clawed back if projects come in under budget - school districts should be able to keep the money for additional LTFM work
 - School Boards may not regulate firearms on school property in accordance with MN Statute 609.66 . Specifically the exceptions for a weapons free school : 624.714 & 624.715 under section 97B.045,
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Additional Comments

The needs of AMSD schools differ at times from others in the state, so I would like to protect and elevate our collective AMSD voice amidst so many competing interests at the Capitol. Question 7 could be a both, and type of answer. Join with others and also hold a separate day.

Need DOE/legislative support for licensed library media programs in our elementary schools. ISD 624 eliminated LMP in 2019 yet built (unstaffed) great new learning commons in all our schools at the request of our district/community facilities committee..... a disconnect! Robust elementary media programs support ALL student achievement, but especially marginalized students!

I'm not sure about the separation of AMSD at the Capitol and would trust others' judgement who are more informed. Thank you for everything!

I think the more we align with MSBA and MASA and all go together with a unified voice and a unified presence, we will be the most successful.

Thanks for all you do.

AMSD and Scott have been great partners and are always available. Thank you for your leadership!

Thanks for your work on our behalf!

Even if the inflation rate abates in the next year, it will be because the prior year divisor was higher. The Legislature needs to realize that costs are now permanently 12%-15% higher than they were in January 2021 in the last Legislative funding session.

I'd say copy and paste the priorities of last year. They are still relevant. Also, I could go either way about the Day at the Capitol. Thank you for your work on this!



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Which AMSD resources are used to stay informed about what is happening at the Capitol.

	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Email Updates	97.83% 45	2.17% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	46	1.02
▼ AMSD Web Page	25.00% 11	56.82% 25	15.91% 7	2.27% 1	44	1.95
▼ Connections Monthly Newsletter	54.55% 24	38.64% 17	6.82% 3	0.00% 0	44	1.52
▼ Bill Tracker	18.18% 8	65.91% 29	11.36% 5	4.55% 2	44	2.02
▼ Facebook	9.76% 4	12.20% 5	41.46% 17	36.59% 15	41	3.05
▼ Twitter	12.50% 5	22.50% 9	40.00% 16	25.00% 10	40	2.77
▼ AMSD Newsfeed (blog)	10.00% 4	17.50% 7	42.50% 17	30.00% 12	40	2.92

In the coming year, do you plan to attend AMSD Board of Directors meetings in person or virtually?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Mostly in person	34.88% 15
▼ Some in person and some virtually	34.88% 15
▼ Mostly virtually	32.56% 14
Total Respondents: 43	

AMSD Day at the Capitol: Should AMSD host a separate Day at the Capitol event during the 2023 legislative session?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	48.78% 20
▼ No - AMSD should support the MSBA and MASA Days at the Capitol rather than having a separate day.	53.66% 22
Total Respondents: 41	