The Association of Metropolitan School Districts urges the Governor and Legislature to remove the per-pupil limit on Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue for all school districts and expand allowable uses to include safety and security modifications and remodeling and additions for instructional purposes. In addition, debt service equalization should be enhanced to ensure taxpayer equity.

A School Finance Working Group convened by the MN Department of Education in 2019 issued a series of recommendations to improve the financing of school facilities and level the playing field between school districts. The recommendations include: removing the per pupil cap in the LTFMR program for all school districts, expanding LTM eligibility to include remodeling improvements for safety, security and Pre-K programming, equalizing the lease levy, and enhancing the debt service equalization formula. ¹

While the LTFMR program made significant progress toward addressing the facilities needs of school districts, further improvements are needed. The Governor and Legislature should adopt a schedule to implement the School Finance Working Group’s facilities funding recommendations so all school districts are able to maintain facilities and provide the needed instructional space for pre-K through grade 12 programming in safe and secure learning environments and taxpayers are treated equitably.

ENDNOTES