

# Association of Metropolitan School Districts

## 2023 Legislative Platform Outline

### DRAFT

#### **Stabilize Funding**

- Increase the basic formula allowance by \_\_ percent per year and index the formula to inflation;
- Eliminate the shortfalls in the special education and English learner programs;
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum;
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities; and
- Increase Local Optional Revenue and link it to the basic formula.

#### **Enhance School Safety and Increase Mental Health Support**

- Increase the Safe Schools Levy and/or state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to hire additional support staff to address the growing mental health needs of our students;
- Remove the per pupil limit in the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue program and expand allowable uses of revenue to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to enhance safety through security modifications to buildings, including remodeling and additions to existing space.

#### **Close Opportunity Gaps and Spur Innovation**

- Make funding for the Voluntary Pre-K program permanent and increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs;
- Allow school districts to implement a competency-based education model in lieu of seat time requirements to allow for personalized learning opportunities for students;
- Modernize the online learning law to expand opportunities for students;
- Establish a pilot project to allow approved school districts to replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally-recognized college entrance exam;
- Allow locally elected school boards to establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students, staff, and community.

#### **Diversify the Educator Workforce and Address Shortage Areas**

- Create incentives and alternative pathways to attract, develop, and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas;
- Streamline the process to obtain a short-call substitute teaching license and maintain multiple pathways to teacher licensure in the tiered licensing system; and
- Invest in rigorous teacher induction and mentoring programs.