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CENTENNIAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2026-2027

2027 Legislative Priorities Overview

Centennial Schools appreciates our state legislators' partnership and the opportunity to share how state policy and funding decisions affect students, staff, and our local community. Centennial's legislative priorities support a strong public education system while preserving local school districts' ability to make responsible decisions based on the needs of their students and communities.

Legislative Platform Items

1. BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

Repeal the contingent $250 million reduction to special education cross-subsidy aid. Minnesota school districts continue to absorb significant costs to provide required special education services that state and federal funding does not fully cover. This gap, commonly called the special education cross-subsidy, requires districts to use general education resources to meet special education obligations.

2. PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

State funding must keep pace with the actual cost of providing a high-quality education. When new requirements or increased costs aren't matched with ongoing funding, districts must redirect existing resources from other student needs. For Centennial, this includes:

- **Staffing and compensation:** Inflation and competitive labor markets drive up staffing costs to maintain appropriate staffing levels.
- **Special education:** Ongoing gaps between the cost of required services and state/federal reimbursement put pressure on the district's general fund.
- **Student support:** Social workers, student and family support, mental health resources, targeted services, and other supports are increasingly important to student success.

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- **Transportation, technology, facilities, and operations:** Inflationary costs of maintaining safe, functional schools and providing daily services continue to rise.
- **Equalization:** State equalization formulas have not systematically kept pace with inflation or rising property values; the state share of equalization has declined or been eliminated over time.
- **New mandates:** Requirements that create ongoing and additional staffing, training, administrative, or operational costs need corresponding ongoing funding.

3. PROTECT LOCAL DECISION-MAKING AND RECONSIDER UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Statewide policy can affect districts very differently depending on their size, demographics, geography, staffing, facilities, and financial circumstances. Centennial supports legislation that advances meaningful student outcomes while recognizing that districts need flexibility to determine how best to meet them.

4. PROVIDE TIME AND SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT NEW REQUIREMENTS

Passing legislation is only the beginning, and good policy deserves good implementation. School districts must translate new requirements into staffing plans, contracts, schedules, programs, training, communications, technology systems, and daily operations.

5. STATEWIDE HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Centennial Schools has invested significant time and resources in developing and managing its employee health insurance program, including its self-insured structure. As a result, Centennial is opposed to mandatory statewide health care legislation (e.g., Employee Group Insurance Program - EGIP).