



## Working Meeting Agenda

Diamondhead Education Center  
200 W. Burnsville Parkway  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
November 18, 2025  
6:00 PM

### Strategic Directions:

- Creating space and opportunity for each and every voice to be heard
- Actively leading by developing and sustaining a diverse and equitable education system
- Supporting and leveraging innovation to improve student outcomes and district culture
- Engaging our community to ensure common understanding of our Strategic Roadmap and the district work to support it

In the case of inclement weather, the Board of Education's regularly scheduled meetings will be rescheduled to the following Monday at the same time and place, unless that Monday is a holiday, in which case a special meeting may be called.

I. Welcome

II. Item to Discuss

A. 2026 Legislative Platform Planning

**Speaker(s):** Lesley Chester, Legislative Committee Chair

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Spark.

Fuel.

Blaze.



# School District 191 Legislative Platform

Adopted for 2025

# 2025 Legislative Platform

## Supporting all learners and addressing inequity in education

On behalf of the students, educators, families and community members of Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, the District 191 Board of Education asks the Minnesota State Legislature and U.S. Congress to take the actions described in this platform in 2025.

### Fully fund mandates and essential services

Increase the general education funding formula by an additional 3% above the inflationary increase.

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education and English Learner funding.

Increase Local Optional Revenue from \$724 to \$957 per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation.

Create a permanent state funding stream for unemployment insurance for non-licensed employees.

Provide additional funding to reimburse districts for implementation and training expenses related to early adoption of evidence-based reading curriculum.

### Removing barriers so all students and families can succeed

Remove the 15-day residency requirement for students enrolled in online schools.

Continue medicaid eligibility as a means of direct certification for students to qualify for educational benefits, and make funding permanent to hold districts harmless for loss of compensatory aid.

### Create safe school environments that support all students

Increase Safe Schools funding to expand mental health supports.

Enhance support for programs that address staff shortages and help increase diversity among teachers, including Grow Your Own grants and the short-call substitute teaching program.

Increase the per pupil allocation for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance, Lease Levy and Operating Capital programs to account for inflation.

## About District 191

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District is a future-forward school district creating barrier-free pathways for learning for everyone in our community. We believe learning is a lifelong pursuit, and we create programs, services and opportunities that inspire this belief.

**Each Student. Future Ready. Community Strong.**

## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

### 2026 Legislative Platform

AMSD understands that the biennial budget was adopted last session. At the same time, school districts continue to face significant fiscal and operational pressures. Inflationary costs continue to outpace general education revenue, challenging the ability of school districts to sustain essential programs and services. School leaders are also striving to enhance school safety and implement the numerous new programs and requirements approved in recent years.

Of particular concern is the instability in compensatory revenue and the contingent \$250 million reduction in special education cross-subsidy reduction aid scheduled for the next biennium. Such a cut would negate an inflationary increase in the basic formula and further exacerbate existing funding shortfalls and jeopardize critical student supports.

To enhance school safety and stabilize funding, state policymakers should address the priorities listed below.

#### **Stabilize Funding**

- Extend the hold-harmless for compensatory revenue through FY27 and amend the formula to include the application for educational benefits form, in addition to direct certification, to determine eligibility for compensatory services;
- Repeal the contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid in the 28-29 biennium; and
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 per pupil and link it to the formula.

#### **Enhance School Safety**

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to \$100 per pupil;
- Strengthen secure gun storage requirements in homes and in vehicles on school property; and
- Allow limited removal time from class with Non-Exclusionary Discipline to enable schools to plan effective reentry supports and interventions to ensure safe classrooms.

#### **Reduce Mandates, Enhance Local Control and Restore Managerial Rights**

- Repeal the requirement that school boards negotiate e-learning days, student testing, and student-to-staff ratios;

- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing capital project levy at the same rate after a public hearing;
- Fully fund or repeal summer term unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff;
- Provide funding to cover the employer premium and substitute staffing costs, or exempt school districts from the Paid Leave program;
- Modernize the hours of instruction requirements to allow students to earn credit for learning wherever it occurs; and
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam and create a Blue-Ribbon Commission to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the assessment system to support student-centered balanced assessment.

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# 2026 MSBA Legislative Platform Development

Help shape MSBA’s grassroots advocacy by identifying the most pressing policy and funding issues facing your school district. Your feedback will help form MSBA’s legislative platform for the 2026 session.

Topics for discussion:

## Section 1: Top Policy Concerns

1. If you could change one or more state law or mandate to better support your schools, what would it be—and why?

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What challenges or opportunities do you foresee in the next few years that the Legislature should address?

 \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Top Funding Priorities

3. Have recent state funding increases (such as formula aid, local optional revenue, or compensatory revenue) kept pace with your district’s actual costs and inflation?

Yes     No     Somewhat

 Please explain or give an example:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which areas of your district’s budget are under the most strain due to state underfunding? (Check all that apply)

Special Education

Student Transportation

Mental Health Services

Facilities and Capital Needs

Student Support Services

Compensatory Revenue

English Learner Aid

5. Which funding sources are most critical to your district’s financial stability? (Select up to three)

- General Education Formula
- Compensatory Revenue
- Special Education Aid
- Local Optional Revenue (LOR)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What specific unfunded or underfunded mandates are straining your district’s budget?

-  \_\_\_\_\_
-  \_\_\_\_\_
-  \_\_\_\_\_
-  \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Staffing and Workforce

7. Is your district currently having trouble hiring or keeping any of the following staff? (Check all that apply)

- Licensed Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Student Support Personnel
- Food Service Workers
- Transportation Staff
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. What state policy changes could help your district improve hiring and retention?

-  \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are there specific licensure or compensation issues the Legislature should address?

-  \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 4: Governance and Local Control

10. Have recent state decisions (such as rules on K-3 suspensions, mandated breaks, or loss of managerial rights) made it harder for your board to govern effectively?

- Yes     No

 If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Are there any Open Meeting Law, election, or board operations issues MSBA should support or oppose?

 \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 5: Advocacy Engagement

12. What lessons or takeaways from the 2025 session should guide MSBA's 2026 strategy?

 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is your board willing to participate in advocacy efforts? (Check all that apply)

- Emailing legislators
- Submitting testimony
- Attending MSBA/MASA Joint Day at the Capitol
- Participate in Inner Circle

Thank you for helping elevate the voice of Minnesota's school boards. Your input is vital to building an effective and unified advocacy platform.

III. Wrap Up

IV. Adjourn

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District 191 welcomes members of the public to attend Board of Education meetings, work sessions and other public gatherings. However, public participation is allowed only during listening sessions, which are held before regular board meetings. Community members who wish to share their thoughts and opinions on meeting topics should contact the Superintendent's office at 952-707-2005 to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent or member of her leadership team.