

Hastings Area Public Schools - ISD 200
School Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Work Session
Middle School Media Center

- I. Moment of Silence for Director Jenny Wiederholt-Pine
- II. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. Building Principal Updates
 - b. Policy 100 Discussion
 - c. Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget Assumptions and 5-Year Plan
 - d. Board Chair / Superintendent Meeting Structure
 - e. Legislative Impacts and Platform
- III. Honoring Director Jenny Wiederholt-Pine



100 Equity and Diversity

I. Purpose

Hastings Public Schools is committed to the success of every student in each of our schools and to our mission and vision statements.

The Hastings Public School District believes that the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by District staff, families, the community, and our students' own efforts. The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for the elimination of racism and bias, including cultural bias, as factors affecting student achievement and learning experiences, and to promote learning and work environments that welcome, respect, and value diversity.

II. General Statement of Policy

- a. The District welcomes, respects and values the diversity of its students, parents, staff and broader community, and understands that:
 - i. All students and their families have dignity and worth.
 - ii. All students deserve equitable treatment, opportunities, and education.
 - iii. Student potential can be unlocked by focusing on their talents; all students have assets.
 - iv. Inclusion of all students and families supports District goals to increase student engagement and academic performance.
 - v. Embracing our diversity through inclusion creates an environment that leverages that diversity and creates schools where students, families, community members and employees feel welcomed, valued, supported, and where students and staff can perform to their personal bests.
 - vi. Our collective understanding of diversity and equity must continue to evolve and increase to be well informed and ready to meet the needs of and celebrate our ever-changing population.
 - vii. Continuous reflective practices and education are necessary to address and eliminate barriers.
 - viii. Academic and engagement evidence, beyond intentions, shall be the measure of whether we are successful.
- b. The District is committed to advancing equitable participation in, contribution to, benefit

from and enjoyment of learning and work experiences by diverse students, parents, staff, and community.

- c. The District is committed to promoting and providing equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, facilities, and support, even when this means differentiating resource allocations on the basis of student needs. Resource allocation shall support the definition of educational equity adopted in this policy while complying with state and federal funding mandates.
- d. The District is committed to the recruitment and retention of highly qualified diverse staff. The District is committed to fostering a learning environment where diversity is encouraged and to recruiting and retaining a workforce that, at a minimum, reflects the diversity of our students and community.

III. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy the following terms shall have these meanings:

- a. “Diversity” includes characteristics of persons including, but not limited to:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Race | 9. Marital status |
| 2. Culture | 10. Family structure |
| 3. Color | 11. Citizenship status |
| 4. Creed or religion | 12. Sexual orientation or affectional preference |
| 5. National origin | 13. Gender identity or expression |
| 6. Biological sex | 14. Economic status |
| 7. Mental and physical ability | 15. Military/Veteran's status |
| 8. Age | 16. Any other protected class in conformance with federal, state and local laws. |
| | 17. Ethnicity |

- b. “District staff” includes all employees, consultants and contractors of Hastings Public Schools

- c. “Educational equity” means raising the achievement of all students while
 - i. Narrowing the achievement gaps between the lowest and highest performing students,
 - ii. Narrowing the opportunity gap between all students, and
 - iii. Eliminating the racial or cultural predictability and disproportionality of which student groups occupy the highest and lowest achievement categories including rates of graduation.

IV. Responsibility

- a. The School Board and Superintendent may establish specific goals to implement this policy as permitted by law.
- b. The Superintendent shall establish in accordance with this policy such plans and procedures as may be necessary and appropriate to accomplish its purpose and intent. Plans and procedures established shall include clear accountability for actions and oversight, and shall include metrics for evaluation.
- c. District staff are responsible to make suggestions to the appropriate authority to improve the ability of the district to reduce the achievement and opportunity gaps that exist.
- d. Hastings School Board, Superintendent and employees will work with students and families to identify assets and barriers to achievement and opportunities for academic success.
- e. The District shall offer opportunities for all staff to improve their cultural competencies in serving our diverse student body and community, and strengthen employee's knowledge and skills for eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps between groups of students.
- f. Practices, procedures and programs that result in over or under representation of any group of students compared to peers shall be subject to close review to assure that such results are due to meeting student legitimate educational, social or emotional needs. Practices that do not meet this close review shall be eliminated.
- g. Teachers, administrators and district staff shall collaborate to establish and implement culturally responsive instructional practices, curriculum and assessments.

Cross References: *ISD 200 Policy 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints About Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations*
ISD 200 Policy 902A Hastings Public Schools Community Use of School Facilities Philosophy, Rules and Regulations, Building Use Charges
ISD 200 Policy 401 Equal Employment Opportunity
ISD 200 Policy 402 Disability Nondiscrimination
ISD 200 Policy 413 Harassment and Violence
ISD 200 Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity
ISD 200 Policy 522 Sex Nondiscrimination
ISD 200 Policy 609 Religion
ISD 200 Policy 606 Textbook and Instruction Materials

Policy Reviewed: 05.26.2021

Policy Adopted: 05.26.2021

Policy Revised: 05.04.2021

Legislative Priorities

The survey asked public school districts to identify their top legislative priorities. A summary follows:

- **Funding Increases:** Many districts emphasize the need for increased funding, particularly for special education and general education formulas, to address inflation and underfunding over the past two decades.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** There is a strong call to eliminate or fund mandates, such as between term unemployment costs and the READ Act, which place financial burdens on ISDs without providing additional resources.
- **Local Control:** ISDs seek greater local control over their programs, revenues, and expenditures, advocating for fewer state mandates and more flexibility in the use of funds.
- **Special Education Cross Subsidy:** Addressing the special education cross subsidy is a priority, with many ISDs requesting full funding to bridge the gap between actual costs and state funding.
- **Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM):** Several ISDs propose changes to LTFM funding, including allowing levies for roof projects and increasing the cap on LTFM aid to cover essential maintenance.
- **Compensatory Funding:** There is a need to address compensatory funding, particularly the transition to Direct Certification, which has led to significant funding losses for some ISDs.
- **Equitable Funding:** Ensuring equitable funding for rural and low-revenue public school districts is highlighted, with calls for adjustments to funding formulas and equalization measures.
- **Teacher Compensation and Retention:** Providing competitive teacher compensation and addressing staff retention challenges are important, with suggestions for funding increases to support competitive salaries and benefits.

2024 MSBA Delegate Assembly – Resolutions Voting Tracker

Resolution #1 (Page 11 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO CONTINUE TO HOLD HARMLESS ON COMPENSATORY FUNDING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THE FORMULA CHANGE BASED UPON DIRECT CERTIFICATION ONLY AND/OR ESTABLISH A FORMULA THAT PROVIDES FUNDING BASED ON THE STUDENTS' NEED FOR SERVICES.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #2 (Page 21 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY TO REVIEW AND APPROVE BUILDING PLANS WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF SUBMISSION BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS. ADDITIONALLY, WE RECOMMEND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY ESTABLISH A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL CODE OFFICIALS TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY IN MANAGING AND APPROVING SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING PLANS.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #3 (Page 29 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO FULLY COVER THE COST OF A CARTON OF MILK FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO BRING A HOME-PREPARED MEAL TO SCHOOL FOR LUNCH.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #4 (Page 37 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE FULL FUNDING (\$169 PER PUPIL IN STATE AID, AND THE ABILITY TO LEVY LOCAL TAXPAYERS FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$91 PER PUPIL) TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS CURRENTLY ON THE WAITLIST FOR Q-COMP (ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL PAY SYSTEM).

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #5 (Page 45 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO PRIORITIZE AND ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY MEASURES ACROSS MINNESOTA SCHOOLS BY ALLOCATING DEDICATED FUNDING AND RESOURCES. THIS WOULD INCLUDE IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGIC CYBERSECURITY PLAN THAT ENCOMPASSES VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS, STAFF TRAINING, INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOLS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO PROTECT AGAINST POTENTIAL CYBER THREATS. FURTHERMORE, MSBA RECOMMENDS THAT THE LEGISLATURE CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE CYBERSECURITY TASK FORCE OR SIMILAR, WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO PAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CYBERSECURITY TASK FORCE SUPPORT, DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING AND GUIDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND MAINTAIN SAFE AND RELIABLE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

PASS X FAIL

Resolution #6 (Page 53 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW FOR BROADER USE OF FOOD SERVICE FUNDS TO INCORPORATE ALL PURCHASES THAT IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONALITY OF CAFETERIA, FOOD PREPARATION, STORAGE, AND FOOD SERVICE AREAS. THIS INCLUDES THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE FOOD SERVICE FUND FOR RENOVATIONS AND MODERNIZATION OF SERVING AREAS AND LUNCHROOMS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, SAFETY, AND THE OVERALL DINING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS, WITH PREAPPROVAL FROM MDE.

PASS X FAIL

Resolution #7 (Page 59 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO SCHOOLS TO PAY FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGING THEIR MASCOT AND/OR LOGO ACCORDING TO THE PROHIBITION ON AMERICAN INDIAN MASCOTS LAW, MINN. STATUTE 121A.041.

PASS X FAIL

Resolution #8 (Page 69 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT A SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FORMULA THAT ADDRESSES THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS EXPERIENCING DECLINING ENROLLMENT. SPECIFICALLY, DISTRICTS WITH A DECLINE IN ENROLLMENT OVER THE PAST THREE (3) SCHOOL YEARS BE ALLOCATED SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BASED ON THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PRIOR TO THAT THREE (3) YEAR DECLINE CYCLE.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #9 (Page 85 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL FUNDING FROM 35 PERCENT TO 50 PERCENT OF DISTRICTS' APPROVED EXPENDITURES.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #10 (Page 93 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION SPARSITY FORMULA FROM 35% TO A MINIMUM OF 70%.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #11 (Page 99 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO LIMIT THE USE OF GRANTS AS A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR MINNESOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. A GRANT-BASED SYSTEM PLACES A BURDEN ON SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO COMPETE FOR FUNDING AND POTENTIALLY DIVERTS VALUABLE TIME AND RESOURCES AWAY FROM EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT SUPPORTS. FUNDING MECHANISMS SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENSURING THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF THEIR DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS.

PASS _____ FAIL X

Resolution #12 (Page 105 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO CREATE SEASONAL RECREATIONAL TAX BASE REPLACEMENT AID TO REDUCE THE LOCAL TAX EFFORT REQUIRED FOR VOTER APPROVED LEVIES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH LOW PROPERTY TAX WEALTH AND HIGH SEASONAL RECREATIONAL TAX BASE.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #13 (Page 111 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE PER PUPIL LEASE LEVY LIMIT AND TO ADD AN INFLATIONARY ANNUAL INCREASE TO THE LEVY LIMIT.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #14 (Page 117 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY ONE TIME WITHOUT AN ELECTION.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #15 (Page 133 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE LOCAL OPTIONAL REVENUE LEVY AUTHORITY FROM \$724 PER STUDENT TO \$974 PER STUDENT TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION FROM 2015 THROUGH 2027 AND INCREASE THE PER STUDENT AMOUNT BY INFLATION INTO THE FUTURE.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #16 (Page 149 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW SCHOOL BOARDS TO LEVY FOR COSTS OF PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE SAFEGUARDING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN THEIR SCHOOL FACILITY AS THIS ISSUE IS IN CONCERT WITH A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO LEVY UNDER LTFM FOR ROOF PROJECTS THAT EXCEED \$100,000 AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ITS ROOF IS BECOMING REQUIRED TO SECURE A QUOTE FOR INSURANCE.

PASS _____ FAIL X

Resolution #17 (Page 155 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE MN STATUTE 122A.181 TIER 1 LICENSE AND MN STATUTE 122A.182 TIER 2 LICENSE SUBD. 4 APPLICATION. SUGGESTED CHANGED WORDING TO: THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD MUST ACCEPT AND REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR A TIER 1 TEACHING LICENSE BEGINNING ON JUNE 1 OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS REQUESTED; AT THE BOARD'S DISCRETION, THE BOARD MAY BEGIN TO ACCEPT AND REVIEW APPLICATIONS BEFORE JUNE 1.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #18 (Page 161 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND AND TO BRING BACK THE RULE OF 90 FOR TEACHERS, OR A NEW FORM OF 62 YEARS OF AGE WITH 30 YEARS OF SERVICE.

PASS _____ FAIL X

Resolution #19 (Page 167 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW SCHOOL BOARDS TO PUT TO A VOTE OF THEIR PUBLIC WHETHER TO GO TO A 5-MEMBER BOARD.

PASS= X FAIL= _____

Resolution #20 (Page 171 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A NEW VOLUNTARY DISTRICT SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM TO LENGTHEN THE SCHOOL YEAR.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #21 (Page 175 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE STATEWIDE RULES AND LAWS REGARDING CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #22 (Page 177 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ELIMINATE STATE STATUTE REQUIRING THREE-DAY NOTICE FOR REMOTE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ACCESS IN ORDER TO ALLOW BOARD MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS REMOTELY IN CASE SOMEONE IS SICK OR CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON AFTER THE THREE (3) DAY POSTING.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #23 (Page 183 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY FULL LEGAL NAME AND TO AMEND MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY TO ASSESS AND RECOVER ACTUAL COSTS OF SEARCHING AND RETRIEVING GOVERNMENT DATA IF THE REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL ABANDONS OR FAILS TO INSPECT THE DATA ONCE IT HAS BEEN PREPARED.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #24 (Page 191 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY 15-DAY DROP TO ALLOW DISTRICTS ADDITIONAL TIME TO ENGAGE OR FIND STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #25 (Page 213 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE THAT THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (MSHSL) RECORD AND LIVESTREAM ALL BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND PROVIDE AGENDAS AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS.

PASS _____ FAIL X

Resolution #26 (Page 217 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO REVISE MN STATUTE RELATIVE TO NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS TO GRANT DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY ABOUT MASCOTS TO THE NEAREST TRIBE TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE TRIBE WITH THE MOST CHILDREN SERVED BY THE DISTRICT AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR DISTRICTS THAT NEED TO MAKE A MASCOT CHANGE.

PASS _____ FAIL X

Resolution #27 (Page 225 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND REDESIGN OF THE MINNESOTA STATE CONTENT STANDARDS TO INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT ONE-TIME FUNDING TO SUPPORT A MAJOR REVISION THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMPETENCIES REQUIRED TO THRIVE IN AN AI-ENHANCED SOCIETY AND WORLD.

PASS X FAIL _____

Resolution #28 (Page 229 of Guidebook)

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO RESCIND THE K-3 EXCLUSIVE DISCIPLINE LAW AND ALLOW FOR DISMISSALS AND SUSPENSIONS OF K-3 STUDENTS IN CERTAIN CASES.

PASS X FAIL _____



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2025

Keeping Students at the Center

Public education is foundational to Minnesota's future prosperity.

Our ability to compete in the global economy is directly tied to our success in closing the significant racial and socioeconomic disparities in our educational outcomes. All students, and all Minnesotans, will benefit when each and every student has access to an equitable and excellent education.

The AMSD Board of Directors has identified the following priorities to help stabilize school budgets and create more equitable academic opportunities for all students.



ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 47 K-12 school districts and six intermediate / cooperative districts. AMSD member school districts enroll more than one-half of all public school students in Minnesota, with the mission to lead the transformation of public education.

AMSD stands ready to assist state policymakers by providing current research and data to help them make informed decisions.

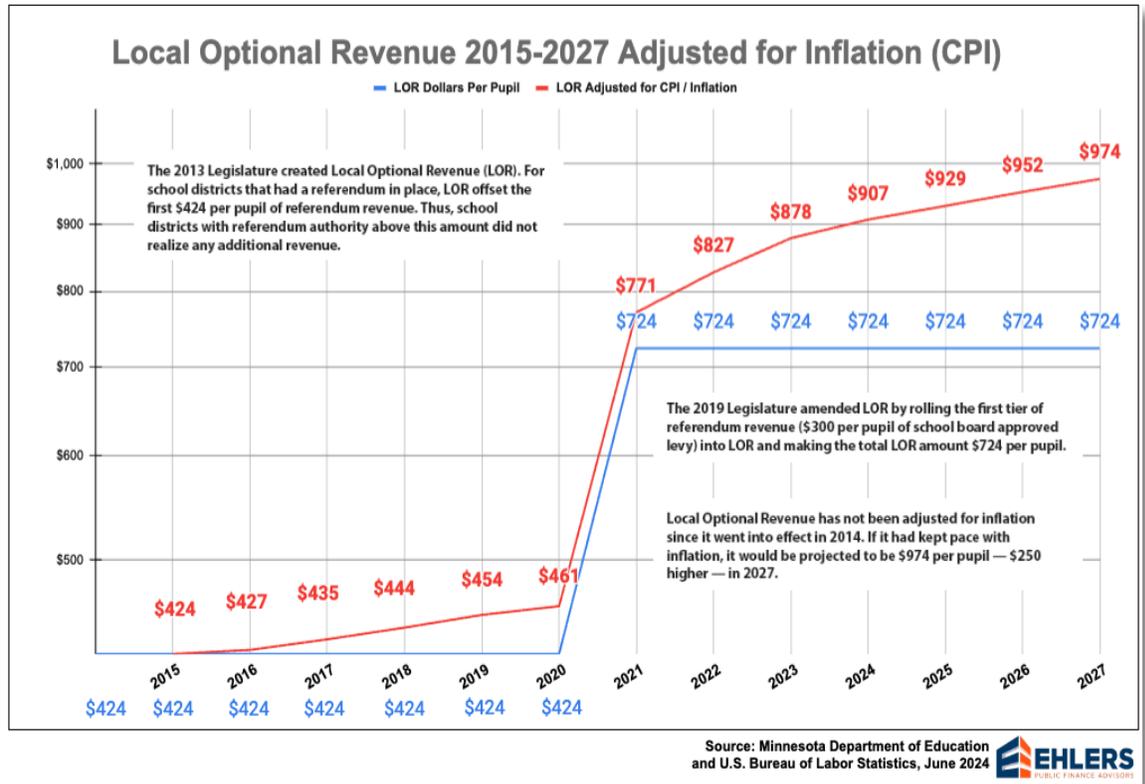


Association of Metropolitan School Districts

FUNDING PRIORITIES

A stable and equitable system must provide the resources necessary to meet state mandates and recognize real inflationary cost pressures. AMSD member school districts are facing major budget shortfalls in the wake of rising costs and expansive new requirements and expectations for our schools.

To help stabilize school budgets and mitigate significant staff layoffs, the Governor and Legislature should:



- Increase the formula allowance by 3 percent over current law for FY26 and FY27;
- Increase Local Optional Revenue from \$724 to \$974 per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation since the program was established in 2014 and link it to the formula;
- Provide funding to cover the state mandated costs of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance and Paid Leave programs;
- Provide additional funding for teacher training and curriculum to ensure a successful implementation of the Read Act;
- Stabilize the compensatory funding formula by including additional criteria to identify families and students eligible for compensatory services;
- Increase the allowance for the Extended Time program so school districts can extend the school day, week and/or year to help all students succeed;
- Reduce the cross-subsidies in the special education and English learner programs;
- Strengthen programs such as the Grow Your Own and teacher apprenticeship programs to recruit and retain teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas, and maintain and expand pathways to teacher licensure; and
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local optional, and debt service levies in the omnibus tax bill to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

ENHANCE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

State policymakers should expand student-centered learning opportunities to allow school districts to create meaningful and personalized experiences that prepare students for future success. Specifically, the Governor and Legislature should:

- Broaden the definition of hours of instruction to allow students to earn credit for learning wherever it occurs;
- Create a legislative working group to study existing barriers to student-centered learning and craft recommendations for improvement;
- Replace the high school MCA exams with a nationally recognized college entrance exam; and
- Direct the Minnesota Department of Education to appoint a working group to build on the Future Assessment Design Working Group recommendations from 2017 and leverage existing state expertise, including researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders, to develop an assessment system that better supports student-centered learning.



ENSURE SAFE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

To protect public assets and ensure safe and secure learning environments for students and staff, state policymakers should:

- Increase the per pupil allocation for the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM), Operating Capital, and Lease Levy programs to recover ground lost to inflation since 2014 and expand the allowable uses of LTFM revenue to include security modifications and additions for instructional space;
- Allow limited removal time from class within Non-Exclusionary Discipline (NED) to enable schools to plan effective reentry supports and interventions to ensure safe classrooms; and
- Increase the Safe Schools Levy.



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

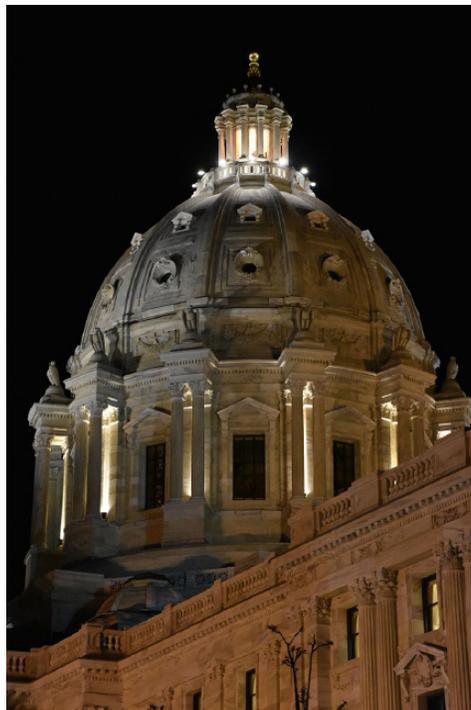
MEMBER DISTRICTS

Anoka Hennepin Schools • Bloomington Public Schools • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • BrightWorks • Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River Area Schools • Farmington Area Public Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hastings School District • Hopkins Public Schools • Intermediate School District 287 • Intermediate School District 917 • Inver Grove Heights Schools • Lakeville Area Public Schools • Mahtomedi Public Schools • Mankato Area Public Schools • Minneapolis Public Schools • Minnetonka Public Schools • Mounds View Public Schools • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916 • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northwest Suburban Integration School District • Orono Schools • Osseo Area Schools • Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools • Richfield Public Schools • Robbinsdale Area Schools • Rochester Public Schools • Rockford Area Schools • Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools • Roseville Area Schools • Shakopee Public Schools • South St. Paul Public Schools • South Washington County Schools • SouthWest Metro Intermediate District • Spring Lake Park Schools • St. Anthony-New Brighton School District • St. Cloud School District • St. Louis Park Public Schools • St. Michael-Albertville Schools • St. Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Schools

RESTORE MANAGERIAL RIGHTS AND ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL

School districts need time to implement the new programs and requirements adopted during the last biennium. AMSD urges state policymakers to refrain from enacting any new mandates and:

- Repeal the requirement that locally elected 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;
- Require any individual submitting a data request to identify themselves and the organization they represent and allow districts to recover the rapidly escalating costs, including legal costs, associated with these requests;
- Allow school boards to establish the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students, staff, and community;
- Allow school districts to publish official proceedings on the district website in lieu of publishing them in a newspaper; and
- Eliminate the state requirement of a three day notice for remote school board meeting access.



STAY CONNECTED WITH AMSD

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/AMSDMN

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2025 Legislative Priorities



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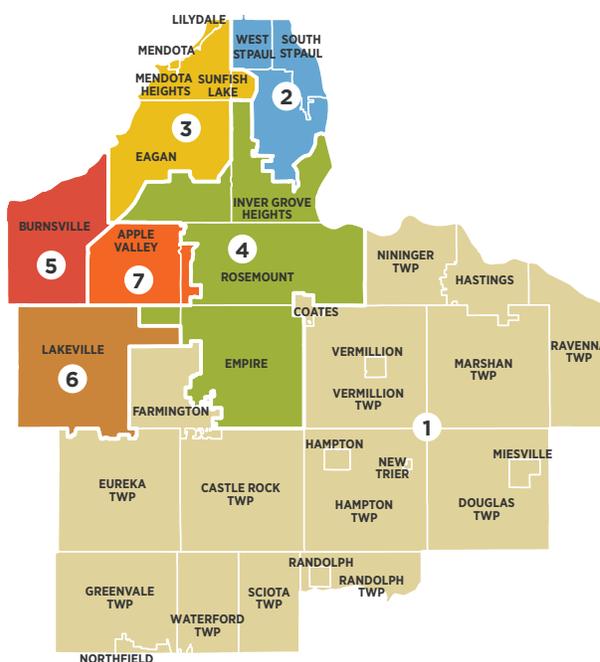
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ABOUT DAKOTA COUNTY

Dakota County has a population of about 447,440. Situated in the southeast corner of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, it is the third-most populous county in the state of Minnesota.

Dakota County is 587 square miles. It maintains a land use mixture of one-third urban, one-third suburban and one-third rural. This combination of land use and the confluence of two major rivers (the Mississippi and Minnesota) that form the county's northern and eastern borders makes Dakota County a unique geographic area.

Between 2010 and 2023, Dakota County's population grew by nearly 12 percent. In recent years, second-

and third-ring communities in Dakota County (Apple Valley, Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount) have increased in population as development continues to move outward from the urban core of Minneapolis and St. Paul into suburbs. The county population is forecasted to grow to 500,000 by 2055.

DAKOTA COUNTY MISSION

Provide efficient, effective, responsive government that achieves the Board of Commissioners' vision for Dakota County: a premier place in which to live and work.

Dakota County 2025 Capital Priorities – At a glance



VI-2025

COUNTY ROAD 50 AND INTERSTATE 35 BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

STATE REQUEST

\$51.6 million for I-35

\$40.8 million – I-35 bridges, County Road 50 interchange

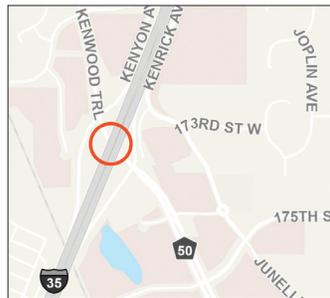
\$10.8 million – County Road 50 improvements

COUNTY MATCH

\$10.9 million for County Road 50 interchange

County Road 50 at Interstate 35 in Lakeville is insufficient for the increasing traffic volume, and pedestrian safety is impaired along the county road. Additionally, the interstate in this corridor needs improvements to accommodate a growing population, improve safety and extend E-ZPass managed lanes from Burnsville to Lakeville.

State bonding in 2025 would help reconstruct the two interstate bridges at County Road 50 and two railroad bridges south of the interchange. The new bridges will be built to carry three lanes in each direction when future interstate improvements are made. New freeway ramps will be built connecting County Road 50 to the interstate. Funding would also provide a fourth lane on County Road 50 under the I-35 bridges and other improvements near the interchange, including pedestrian and bicycle connections along the road under I-35.



THOMPSON COUNTY PARK INCLUSIVE RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS

\$4 million

Dakota County invested \$3 million at Thompson County Park in recent years, completing a first phase of improvements identified in a new park master plan.

In 2023, the Legislature provided \$2 million for design of further park enhancements, including to improve community access and extend an ADA-accessible trail system. An additional \$4 million in state funding would allow for construction of those enhancements.



THE RECYCLING ZONE PLUS

\$8 million (Capital Assistance Program)

Dakota and Scott counties have a combined 603,000 residents — more than 10 percent of the state population. Each county operates residential household hazardous waste and recycling facilities, but they cannot handle expected population growth. Also, there are large areas of Dakota and Scott counties that are underserved for this type of waste disposal and recycling.

Dakota and Scott counties have partnered on plans for the Recycling Zone Plus, a new facility in Lakeville to properly manage household hazardous waste and recyclables from both counties and other metro area residents. The Legislature provided design and land acquisition funding through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Capital Assistance Program (CAP), but additional funding is needed for construction.

COUNTY BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

\$8.4 million (Renewable Development Account)

\$4.4 million – Solar installations

\$4 million – Building system updates

Dakota County is committed to reducing energy use in county-owned facilities and remaining a state leader in energy conservation.

The county's energy efficiency proposal includes installing a total of 700 kilowatts of solar canopies at seven county locations. It also includes energy-efficient HVAC system updates at four facilities, including the Dakota 911 dispatch center.

The county is requesting \$8.4 million from the Minnesota Renewable Development.

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Dakota County 2025 Policy Priorities – At a glance



VI-2025

MODERNIZE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGY

Minnesota's human services programs and technology are complex and outdated. Recent state modernization efforts have not kept up with evolving technology.

The state can change that by providing counties that deliver these services with modernized systems that give clients more control over their services and focus on efficiency and the use of data to improve services. The Legislature should also fund projects and technology that simplify program rules.

Counties will support efforts to rapidly develop solutions that meet these goals.

Dakota County recommends the following legislative actions:

- Support modernization projects that improve client and staff use, while increasing equity and access to services for all Minnesotans.
- Provide implementation funds to cover county costs associated with these investments.
- Establish an innovation fund for counties to co-develop solutions.

SUSTAINABLE CRISIS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

Communities across Minnesota face urgent and unprecedented mental health challenges. Dakota County has responded by developing effective crisis services. The county has expanded services to handle crisis calls transferred from Dakota 911, embed social workers in 10 public safety agencies and provide more timely crisis response. It also built the Crisis and Recovery Center in West St. Paul.

Most of the county's expanded services rely on one-time aid, including American Rescue Plan funds. To ensure proven crisis services can continue, the Legislature should create a long-term funding plan. In the meantime, Dakota County recommends increasing funding for crisis services grants, creating an equitable formula for state crisis grant funds and providing \$3.4 million in one-time funding to support existing services.

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MNCHOICES REASSESSMENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

MnCHOICES assessment and support planning are important for seniors and individuals with disabilities who need home and community-based services. It ensures eligibility, informed choice and identifies cost-effective care options. However, counties, which administer this state program, need a more efficient reassessment process to better serve existing clients and erase a backlog of first-time applications.

An annual MnCHOICES reassessment takes a total of 7-8 hours. That is excessive if the individual's situation has not changed. This lengthy process can be traumatizing to the individual and their family. It also contributes to overall program delays.

Dakota County recommends the Legislature create a shorter and more efficient MnCHOICES reassessment process if an individual's condition is stable and unchanged. The county also recommends the state change the annual comprehensive reassessment requirement to once every two or three years, or sooner if there is a significant change in an individual's condition.

HOUSING SUPPORT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT ALLOCATION

Minnesota law requires counties and tribes to oversee Housing Support benefits, but they do not receive dedicated funding to carry out this state program.

Housing Support pays for room and board and some supportive services for seniors and adults with disabilities who have low incomes. Dakota County supports 1,198 people on Housing Support. The county maintains 214 Housing Support agreements with vendors for 727 properties.

Housing Support agreements allow providers to collect a 5-percent administrative fee on all housing payments. There is no similar administrative fee available to counties and tribes, yet the state requires them to perform numerous Housing Support functions.

The state should provide a management allocation to counties and tribes for administering Housing Support. Without it, this is an unfunded mandate.

Continued

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Continuation

INCREASED SCORE FUNDING FOR STATE WASTE MANDATES

Metro counties face a growing number of state waste management requirements without a proportionate increase in Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) funding.

In 2024, 27 percent of the Solid Waste Management Tax revenue was still being redirected to the state's General Fund instead of to counties to carry out state-required waste management plans. State funding has not kept pace with the investment needed to achieve state waste objectives. Without this state support, counties must use their own funding.

While the Minnesota Legislature in 2023 redirected an additional 3 percent of the solid waste management tax to SCORE, 77 percent of Dakota County's waste management plan funding is still from other sources.

Increased SCORE funding to metro counties will reduce the reliance on local funding sources to meet state-required waste management objectives.

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Minnesota Association of School Administrators 2025 Legislative Priorities

Ensuring Ongoing Support for Public Education

In 2023, the legislature made strides in addressing the financial challenges faced by school districts. However, school districts continue to struggle due to years of underfunding, persistent staff shortages, and the introduction of new mandates.

For the 2025 legislative session, MASA urges the legislature to build on that progress by continuing to close the remaining funding gaps, fully funding the new mandates passed over the past two years, and granting schools the flexibility they need to effectively support students and expand the educator workforce.

Local Control and Flexibility

- **Renew capital levies locally**
- **Promote effective discipline policies**
- **Allow for flexible learning environments**

Adequate Funding

- **Increase the basic formula**
- **Fund unemployment insurance**
- **Eliminate cross-subsidies**
- **Fix compensatory funding**

Expand Educator Workforce

- **Broaden licensure & alternative pathways**
- **Improve educator pension benefits**
- **Require teacher preparation programs to train teacher candidates in the science of reading**

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Minnesota Association of School Administrators 2025 Legislative Priorities

✓ Adequate Funding

- Provide a 3% basic formula increase over current law.
- Permanently fund summer term unemployment insurance.
- Establish a district-level hold harmless for compensatory funding and direct a study group to recommend a long-term solution.
- Eliminate the cross-subsidies for English learner programming and special education.
- Increase local optional revenue to \$974 per pupil.
- Increase long-term facilities maintenance revenue and provide additional flexibility in its uses.
- Expand access to voluntary pre-kindergarten.
- Provide funding for staff training for non-exclusionary discipline and restorative practices.
- Increase Safe Schools funding to provide resources for addressing cybersecurity concerns.

✓ Educator Workforce

- Improve pension benefits including establishing a career 60 and 30 rule, reducing the early retirement penalty from 7% to 5%, and removing the TIER II retiree cost of living adjustment delay.
- Increase funding for programs that expand the educator workforce and broaden pathways for hard-to-fill subject areas such as science, special education, and career and technical education.
- Expand alternative pathways to teacher licensure, including movement between tiers and paraprofessional-to-teacher training programs.
- Remove caps on out-of-field permissions and remove posting deadlines.
- Support restorative practices and student discipline through locally determined policies.
- Require teacher preparation programs to train teacher candidates in the science of reading.

✓ Local Control and Flexibility

- Allow districts to design school calendars aligned with community needs.
- Focus on learning outcomes instead of seat time.
- Permit school boards to renew existing capital project levies after a public hearing.
- Enable school districts to recover expenses for staffing and legal fees tied to data requests.
- Refine earned safe and sick time (ESST) and Paid Leave (PL) to ensure alignment with locally negotiated contracts.
- Support non-exclusionary discipline and restorative practices through locally determined policies.
- Establish a study group to review and recommend updates to state laws concerning homeschooling and the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program.

About MASA

As advocates of a world-class education for Minnesota's learners, MASA's members serve as the leading voice for public education, shape and influence the state and national education agenda, and empower leaders through high-quality professional learning, services, and support. MASA members include more than 600 superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, other central office administrators, service providers, business partners, and retirees.

DAKOTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



SUSTAINABLE FUNDING + LOCAL CONTROL

To continue our collective commitment to providing high-quality learning environments that maximize every student's potential, Dakota County school districts have established the following priorities for the 2025 legislative session:



- 1 Further reduce or close the Special Education and Multilingual Learner programs cross-subsidies.
- 2 Refine the compensatory eligibility identification process.
- 3 Increase local optional revenue.
- 4 Fully fund or modify unemployment insurance, paid leave programs, and READ Act mandates.
- 5 Increase per pupil funding.
- 6 Allow locally elected school boards to renew existing capital projects technology referendums at the same level.
- 7 Increase the per pupil allocation and the allowable use for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM), Operating Capital, and Lease Levy programs.
- 8 Refrain from under-funded mandates and honor local control and inherent managerial rights.
- 9 Expand access to Voluntary Pre-K.
- 10 Require data request submissions to require individual/organization identification and allow school districts to recover all costs.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE COMMITTED TO TEACHING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS.**

