



***Future Ready. Community Strong.***

## **Working Meeting Agenda**

Diamondhead Education Center  
200 W. Burnsville Parkway  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
January 20, 2026  
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

- I. Welcome
- II. Item to Discuss
  - A. Review AMSD & MSBA Final Legislative Platforms

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# 2026 Legislative Platform

The 331 elected school boards across Minnesota are accountable to their communities and responsible for decisions about annual budget, oversight of district operations, long-term planning, district policies, curriculum, and student success.

## To fulfill this role effectively, boards must have:

- Stable, adequate, and predictable funding that reflects real inflationary pressures.
- Policy and program reforms to make them work for school districts.
- Local control and flexibility to respond to the unique needs of their students and communities.

## Top Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

### Special Education Cross Subsidy

- Protect existing special education funding and ensure the Blue Ribbon Education Task Force's \$250 million reduction target does not reverse recent progress in lowering the special education cross subsidy—avoiding new pressures on general education budgets and local property taxpayers.

### Safe and Supportive Schools

- Raise the cap for the School Safety Levy to provide districts with greater flexibility to address a full range of local safety needs — including support for School Resource Officers (SROs), staff, and facility priorities — consistent with best practices and community expectations.
- Reevaluate non-exclusionary discipline strategies recognizing one statewide approach does not effectively meet the safety needs of all students.

### Stable and Predictable Funding

- Protect the Basic Education formula inflationary index and extend it to other components of General Education Revenue to ensure consistent and predictable funding that keeps pace with actual district costs.
- Hold districts harmless in compensatory revenue changes while improving how students in need are identified and served.
- Allow school boards, by Board resolution, to transfer balance surpluses of non-federal funds between district operating accounts, to meet financial needs without the need for additional aid or levy authority.
- Provide full ongoing state funding, or repeal, summer unemployment for non-licensed school staff.
- Fully fund the Minnesota Paid Leave program for school districts or allow districts and collective bargaining units to opt out of the state program.



# 2026 Legislative Platform

## Ongoing Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

### Facilities and Infrastructure

- Allow school boards a one-time Capital Projects Levy renewal authority and give greater flexibility in Long-Term Facilities Revenue for facility upgrades or maintenance.

### PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment Reform

- Address Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) statutes to restore balance and fairness to school districts while preserving meaningful college-credit opportunities for students.

### Permanent School Fund Modernization

- Support a constitutional amendment to modernize the Permanent School Fund distribution allocation—replacing the outdated “interest and dividends” formula with a percentage-of-market-value (POMV) framework for stable yearly funding while protecting the trust fund for future generations.

## Your Government Relations Team

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### Instruction and Assessments

- Transition from the MCAs to a nationally recognized assessment like the ACT.
- Broaden the definition of “instructional hours” to allow high school students to access non-traditional courses allowing them to better meet individualized student success.
- Update the online learning statute to direct the Minnesota Department of Education to design, implement and evaluate a pilot of secure remote testing options for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

### Local Option Revenue (LOR) Levy Authority

- Increase school board LOR authority from \$724 to \$979 per pupil closing the inflation gap, reducing financial pressure on districts and promoting more stable, equitable funding statewide.

### Timely Implementation of Fiscal Mandates

- New mandates that increase costs to districts or budget reductions that impact districts must have a fiscal note and must be enacted by March 1 of the current legislative year or delay enactment until July 1 of the following school fiscal year to allow district staffing and program adjustments.



# LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



AMSD recognizes that the biennial budget was set last session. However, inflation continues to outpace general education revenue, and recent legislative changes have created instability in key funding streams. Safe Schools and Local Optional Revenue have been frozen for a decade, changes to the compensatory formula have created funding cliffs for many school districts, and a contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid would erase inflationary increases to the basic formula. Given the state’s current fiscal landscape, AMSD identifies both immediate and



ongoing priorities essential to sustaining high-quality education.

## IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

### ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to \$100 per pupil for school districts and \$35 per pupil for intermediate and cooperative districts.
- Permit limited removal time within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms.
- Strengthen secure gun storage requirements.

### STABILIZE COMPENSATORY FUNDING

- Hold districts harmless from revenue losses resulting from recent compensatory formula changes until recommendations from the Compensatory Revenue Task Force can be implemented.

### MODERNIZE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

- Support a constitutional amendment to adopt a percentage-of-market-value distribution model that provides predictable funding while protecting long-term trust assets.

### REEVALUATE MINNESOTA’S ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Establish a blue-ribbon commission to redesign Minnesota’s assessment system, focusing on balanced, student-centered measures and exploring the replacement of high school MCAs with a nationally recognized college entrance exam.
- Modernize hours-of-instruction requirements so students can earn credit for learning that occurs beyond traditional settings.





## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### ONGOING PRIORITIES

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While acknowledging fiscal constraints, AMSD believes the following priorities remain critical to the long-term success of students and school districts:

#### Stabilize Education Funding

- Repeal the contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid scheduled for the 2028–29 biennium.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$979 per pupil to restore purchasing power lost to inflation and index it to the general education formula.
- Strengthen the PSEO program to ensure financial stability, academic rigor, student support, and preparation for success after high school.

#### Reduce Mandates and Restore Local Control

- Repeal requirements that school boards negotiate e-learning days, student testing, and student-to-staff ratios.
  - Allow school boards to renew a capital project levy at the existing rate following a public hearing.
  - Fully fund or repeal summer unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff.
  - Provide funding for employer premiums and substitute staff costs associated with the Paid Leave program—or exempt school districts.
  - Expand school board flexibility to transfer non-federal fund surpluses among operating accounts.
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### ABOUT AMSD

The Association of Metropolitan School Districts represents 49 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.

### CONTACT AMSD

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### AMSD MEMBER DISTRICTS

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Anoka-Hennepin School District • Bloomington Public Schools • BrightWorks • Brooklyn Center Community Schools • Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose • Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 • Centennial School District • Columbia Heights Public Schools • Duluth Public Schools • Eastern Carver County Schools • Eden Prairie Schools • Edina Public Schools • Elk River School District ISD #728 • Farmington Area Public Schools • Forest Lake Area Schools • Fridley Public Schools • Hastings Public Schools • 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 • North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District • Northeast Metro Intermediate School District #916 • Northwest Suburban Integration District • Orono Schools • Osseo Area Schools • Perpich Center for Arts Education • 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 Independent School District • St. Cloud Area School District 742 • St. Louis Park Public Schools • St. Michael Albertville Schools • Saint Paul Public Schools • Stillwater Area Public Schools • Wayzata Public Schools • West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District • Westonka Public Schools • White Bear Lake Area Schools

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# Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

## Initial Draft/Outline of 2026 Legislative Platform

*Based on notes and identified themes during the November 18, 2025 Legislative Committee Meeting*

### **Priority #1 - School Safety**

- Increase the Safe Schools levy to \$100 per pupil for school districts and \$35 per pupil for intermediate and cooperative districts. (from AMSD final draft)
- Permit limited removal time within non-exclusionary discipline to support effective reentry planning and maintain safe classrooms. (from AMSD final draft)

### **Priority #2 - Stabilize Funding**

- Increase Local Optional Revenue to restore purchasing power lost to inflation and index it to the general education formula (from AMSD final draft)
- Hold districts harmless from revenue losses resulting from recent compensatory formula changes until recommendations from the Compensatory Revenue Task Force can be implemented. (from AMSD)
- Funding tied to students open enrolling into other districts should remain in the resident district (from ELT)

### **Priority #3 - Reduce Mandates and Restore Local Control**

- Fully fund or repeal summer unemployment insurance for non-licensed staff. (from AMSD final draft)
- Provide funding for employer premiums and substitute staff costs associated with the Paid Leave program—or exempt school districts. (from AMSD final draft)
- Address testing requirements for students who opt out as well as replacing 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 assessments. (from Board Member suggestion and AMSD original draft)

### **District 191 Priorities Identified to keep for the 2026 Legislative Platform from the 2025 Platform:**

- Increase the per pupil allocation for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance, Lease Levy and Operating Capital programs to account for inflation.
- 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.
- 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.
- Increase Safe Schools funding to expand mental health supports.
- Remove the 15-day state residency requirement for students enrolled in online school

### **Additional notes, suggestions and considerations:**

- Teacher Licensing requirements (Tier 1/Tier 2) suggestion
- Implications response from safe school levy questions:
  - If the safe schools levy that was approved for FY27 includes \$36 per adjusted pupil unit (APU), which is \$283,615. If it were to increase to \$100 per APU, we'd receive \$787,820, which is a \$504,205 increase. We could add SROs, cover cybersecurity costs, building security upgrades, counselors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, alcohol and chemical dependency counselors, and mental health services





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.**

- C. Finalize Committee Recommendations for District 191 Legislative Platform for 2026
- III. Wrap Up
- IV. Adjourn

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