



Minneapolis Schools' 2019 Legislative Agenda

I. Special Education Funding and Policy

- Address the mismatch of open enrollment and special education tuition billing statutes so resident district budgets do not take a disproportionate share of the cost burden
- Address the rapidly rising cost of special education tuition billing due to some schools' ability to bill back 100% of their costs
- Reduce the state underfunding of special education by 25% a year to close the funding gap within four years
- Provide all federal setting 4 programs in the state with access to resources for mental health and professional development supports
- Give parents of students with Individual Education Programs (IEP) the ability to request an IEP team meeting instead of requiring a conciliation conference if they have concerns about a specific element of the IEP
- Allow schools to conduct Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) without requiring a comprehensive evaluation if an evaluation has been done within three years

II. Stable funding

- Increase the basic per pupil formula by 3% a year for the next two years and index it to inflation thereafter
- Allow elected school boards to renew existing operating and capital projects levies which have been approved by voters without requiring additional referenda elections
- Expand the allowable uses of long term facilities maintenance aid to cover school safety and energy efficiency related costs
- Increase funding for career technical education and expand access to early middle college for more students
- Increase English Learner funding to close the funding gap
- Provide districts more flexibility over uses of community education reserves
- Continue funding for Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund (MERF) at current law levels

III. Foster Stable, Healthy Engaged Families

- Support increases in state funding for Full Service Community Schools
- Expand funding for school-linked mental health grants
- Fully fund the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Ensure families have access to high quality affordable housing
- Expand school-based pre-kindergarten programs so more families have access to all day pre-k

- For homeless and highly mobile students placed in Intermediate and cooperative schools, require the placing district to arrange transportation for the entire school year

IV. Ensure Equitable Access to Proven Programs

- Expand state support of teacher residency programs with a focus on teachers of color, special education, career and technical education, math and ESL/bilingual education
- Allow Q Comp funds to be used for professional development for associate educators
- Fund ACT for all students
- Reduce the length of the required state assessments and give districts the authority to replace the high school assessments with college and career readiness assessments
- Increase the extended time formula and link it to the general education formula