



Minneapolis Schools' 2021 Legislative Agenda

I. Stable, Predictable Funding

- Tie the general education aid formula to inflation
- Allow districts to use Fiscal Year 2020 enrollment and free-reduced lunch counts for Fiscal Year 2021 funding formulas
- Renew Voluntary pre-kindergarten funding and expand school-based pre-kindergarten programs so more families have access to all day pre-k
- Allow elected school boards to renew existing operating and capital projects levies which have been approved by voters without requiring additional referenda elections
- Renew the authority for districts to bill for Special Education Aides salaries and special education transportation expenses as if in-person learning were taking place
- Continue funding for the Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund (MERF) at current law levels
- Transfer district of residence to the serving district after one year for students who open enroll and are placed in cooperative programs

II. 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

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) and align it with Pathway I Scholarships
- Ensure access to safe and affordable housing for students and families

IV. Ensure Equitable Access to Proven Programs

- Increase English Learner funding to close the funding gap
- 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
- Make ethnic studies a state graduation requirement for high school 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