

MPS 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Quality Teaching in Every Classroom

- **Teacher Evaluation**
 - Clarify that teacher evaluation may be developed through a “meet and confer” process rather than by “joint agreement.”
 - Define appropriate teacher evaluation protocols for staff in non-tested grades and subjects.
 - Clarify the definition of “observation” separate and distinct from “evaluation.”
 - Clarify the definition of “teacher” for the purpose of this section.

- **Teacher Licensure Reciprocity**
 - Empower the education commissioner to establish a relationship with states with whom Minnesota can grant licensure reciprocity. This will allow MPS to hire top talent and accept the state-of-origin licensure.

- **Q Comp**
 - Streamline the requirements of Q Comp and teacher evaluation.

Preparing Global Learners

- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**
 - Extend the cap on LEP revenue eligibility from five to seven years, a recommendation of the 2013 Commissioner’s K-12 Finance Work Group. Research supports longer eligibility for LEP revenue to support academic language acquisition.

- **Certificate of World Language Proficiency/Seal of Biliteracy**
 - Establish a certificate of world language proficiency/seal of biliteracy for Minnesota diplomas to reflect the asset of world language proficiency. The proposal would finance the development of standards, assessments and curriculum to support the certificate/seal. The certificate/seal would serve as an additional endorsement on

students' diplomas for those who demonstrate dual language proficiency, a skill that is highly sought after in the global economy.

- **Special Education**

- Increase special education funding under the new formulas to reduce formula proration and reduce the special education cross-subsidy. Enhanced special education funding supports our special education program for students with individual education plans.
- Increase Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement for support services provided by school district staff.

- **Early Childhood**

- Early childhood screening costs exceed state reimbursement formulas. Doubling statutory rates for reimbursement of early childhood screening gets us closer to actual costs, although the amount is still not a full reimbursement.
- Increase state resources for Early Childhood Family Education and school readiness to match the state investment in early childhood scholarships.
- Recommend statutory adjustments to the early childhood scholarship allocation process.
 - Negotiated language on the allocation process was not adopted last year.
 - We should revisit the negotiated language in light of experience implementing early childhood scholarships.

- **Community Education**

- Reinstatement of the 2 percent Adult Basic Education growth factor that was cut during the 2011 legislative session. Restoration of the inflation factor supports the needs of returning adult learners whose numbers will likely increase given the repeal of the GRAD exams and new graduation requirements.
- Increase the community education levy, which has not been increased since 2005. Community education programming is an important adjunct to our direct pre-K-12 mission. Robust community education programming provides a significant added value to our neighborhoods.

Maintaining Operational Facilities

- **Charter School Lease Aid**
 - Clarify that the “related parties” provision of current law does not apply to authorizers and the charters they authorize. This clarification was adopted in the 2013 Senate omnibus education bill in 20013 and debated in conference committee but was not included in the final bill. Clarification of this issue supports a collaborative relationship between school districts and the charter school sector.

- **Facilities**
 - Amend the Alternative Facilities Bonding, Levy and Aid Program to allow replacement of “like for like” to “like for like based on current construction standards or optimization of energy efficiency savings.” This amendment permits participating school districts to make green technology upgrades as part of their capital renewal work rather than replacing outmoded technology with outmoded technology.
Alternative Facilities Bonding Authority and Alternative Facilities aid.
[Alternative Facilities Bonding, Levy and Aid Program 123B.59, 2010 Minnesota Statutes](#)
 - Support the recommendations of the Facilities Taskforce to streamline Minnesota Department of Education’s oversight of school district use of alternative facilities and other capital renewal and improvement tools. We need to match the program review requirements with the department’s ability to add value in the review process.
 - Allocate a portion of the 2014 bonding bill to state grants to local school districts for all-day kindergarten classroom space and air conditioning conversions. Many districts, including MPS, need support making enough additional all-day kindergarten classroom space available following the state’s expansion of funding for all-day kindergarten. State bonding is an appropriate source of revenue for this service expansion and to accelerate school facility modernization with Air Conditioning statewide.