



2021 MSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Working together to ensure every student achieves academically, socially, and emotionally





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Ensure every public school in the state is able to provide a quality education system

- Allow districts, for one year, to use the greater of the 2019 or 2020 pupil counts for general education revenue and free and reduced counts for compensatory revenue
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating or capital projects referendum
- Increase the basic formula allowance by 2 percent each year and index to inflation

Improve equalization of all school levies with significant statewide impact

- Lease Levy (not equalized now)
- Safe Schools Levy (not equalized now)
- Operating referendum and Local Optional Revenue (LOR)
- Debt service

Provide equitable access and flexibility to facilities funding

- Eliminate the cap and expand the uses of the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) revenue
- Expand uses and flexibility for lease levies

Improve staff recruitment and retention

- Increase the number of teachers of color and subject shortage areas
- Create incentives to attract and retain staff and teachers
- Maintain current pathways for teacher licensure

Redesign schools to promote individualized learning

- Eliminate barriers and expand Innovation Zones
- Provide expanded learning time and opportunities
- Redesign assessments to complement individualized learning

Ensure supports for social and emotional learning

- Assess what students need
- Lift the safe school levy cap to ensure funding for programs and staff
- Emphasize authentic, culturally responsive teaching and learning

Close the digital divide

- Fully fund the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program, ensuring access for all students
- Provide funding for technology devices needed for distance learning

As we look beyond the pandemic and toward a brighter economic outlook, it is of great importance that we reform the school finance system by embracing, prioritizing and phasing in the recommendations by the MDE School Finance Working Group Report, 80-20-10: Bringing Equity to Minnesota's Education Finance System.

These recommendations would:

- simplify and improve the equity, adequacy and stability of the funding system,
- provide resources to close the achievement gap, and
- ensure taxpayer equity and preserve local control.