LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2021

ADVOCATING FOR GREATER MINNESOTA SCHOOLS

- COVID-19 Relief
- Funding Basic Education
- Teacher Shortages
- School Facilities Funding Tools
- School Readiness
- Special Education Funding
- Student Health & Safety
- Career & College Readiness Flexibility
COVID-19 RELIEF
Ensuring students across Minnesota have access to quality teachers

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Hold harmless school district ADM counts
  - From last school year to this school year

- Hold harmless Compensatory Revenue
  - From last school year to this school year
2000 Plan promised to fund schools with basic formula

Basic formula has not kept up with inflation
— Underfunded by about $658 per pupil

Led school districts to rely heavily on local taxpayer support

Disparity in general education revenue (5th to 95th ratio)
— Increased from 18.6% in FY 2003 to 31% in FY 2013
— Now trending to 23.9% in FY 2021
Statewide Aid, Levies, Revenue
Constant FY 2020 Dollars Per Pupil

MDE data in constant 2020 dollars adjusted for inflation  mreavoice.org
Redefine to include formula allowance and new “Local Education Revenue” (LER)
— 80% formula allowance and 20% LER
— Total LER allowance would be $1,641

LER replaces LOR and funded with local property taxes
— Equalized to eliminate separate Tier 1 and 2 calculations

Increased by forecasted inflation at 2% per year
KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Secure ongoing funding for student teaching stipends and loan forgiveness
- Expand **Grow Your Own** Teacher pilot programs for rural districts
- Support “**Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers**” legislative initiatives
- Allow short-call sub license eligibility to include AA degrees
SCHOOL FACILITIES
Tools to keep school facilities updated and equipped for learning

1. **Protect Ag2School**
   Continue tax credit for timber and agriculture landowners

2. **Cooperative Facilities**
   Same access lease levy for rural education cooperatives

3. **Enhanced Equalization**
   Add Debt Service Equalization for consolidated districts after 2021

4. **Long-Term Maintenance**
   Improve Long-Term Facility Maintenance to support updates

MREA
AG2SCHOOL IMPACT
Protect tax credit and planned increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxes Payable Year</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>Total Ag2School Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- XXX school districts currently benefit
- School districts in red have potential to see greatest impact
- At least 64% of property value is ag and timber land
COOPERATIVE FACILITIES
Provide same lease levy access as metro

- Facing unprecedented growth in high-need students
- Lack appropriate spaces and financial tools to do it
- Need facilities similar to what’s available for metro students
LONG-TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE

- Funding frozen at $380 per pupil
- Gap to grow to $262 in FY ‘23
LONG-TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

• All school districts eligible based on approved 10-year facilities plan
  — Without statutory limit on amount raised without voter approval
  — Consistent with current practice for Alternative Facilities revenue

or

• Adjust non-alternative facility districts aid and levy formula allowance for inflation
  — Specify non-alt facility districts shall receive no less than 80% of average for alt facility districts
JUMP START TO SCHOOL READINESS
Access to quality programs for our earliest learners

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

• Consolidate Pathway II funds to streamline revenue and coordination

• Funding to provide all low-income 4-year-olds a minimum of 350 hours from 3- and 4-star rated providers.

• Ensure a viable mixed delivery by requiring districts to reserve 40% for non-district 3- and 4-star rated providers.

• School districts verify and reimburse non-district 3- and 4-star providers.

• Release unused funds to districts June 30 for early learning programs.
SPECIAL EDUCATION
Funding to support students with special needs

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

- Local cross subsidy grown to 12% of general formula
  — Projected to consume 15% of formula in next 10 years

- Advocate for increase in federal support for special education

- Increase state special education funding
  — Hold cross subsidy per student constant in FY 2022
  — Eliminate state portion in FY 2023 and later
CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS FLEXIBILITY

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

• Oppose legislation requiring the third science credit to be obtained through an Earth Science

• Re-examine high school course and standards requirements to align with state workforce needs — Provide flexibility and more options for students

• Reinvest in vocational, technical education programs and skills
STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

Meeting student mental health and safety needs

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

● Double Safe Schools Levy program to $72 per pupil with equalization for school districts
  – Establish $30,000 minimum for small districts.
  – Cooperatives directly serving students levy up to $15 per pupil

● Improve funding for school-linked mental health grants

● Restore funding for ongoing school-county collaboratives