# 2018 MSBA Legislative Agenda

The Minnesota School Boards Association, a leading advocate for public education supports, promotes, and strengthens the work of public school boards.

## Students

There are 847,000 students enrolled in Minnesota public schools.

## School Boards

More than 2,000 locally elected school board members are responsible for the governance of school property, budget, curriculum, technology, taxes, student achievement and teacher quality - ensuring excellence and equity in all public schools.

## Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Learners</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free and Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## MSBA Priorities:

### Special Education

The special education cross-subsidy for FY 2016 was $679 million and is expected to grow. The projected growth suggests it is time to create a work group to design a plan to eliminate the cross-subsidy.

### Teacher Retirement

In the most recent proposal, the estimate to fund the employer portion of TRA was $64 million each year. The employer contribution should be the state's responsibility, so as not to divert funds from the district's general education fund.

### Fair Funding

- Oppose using tax credits and scholarships for private education.
- Inequities in funding continue to exist. Telecommunications Equity Aid, should be fully funded to ensure all schools have affordable access to high-speed Internet service.

### School Readiness

Pathway II Scholarships play an important role in increasing the access to high-quality preschool for Minnesota's neediest early learners. Funding should be restored and increased.

### Accountability

Align the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) statute with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to create one statewide accountability system.

### Cyber Security

Schools are increasingly becoming targets for security breaches. Resources are needed to protect students, staff and parents with secure electronic systems.

### School Trust Lands

In order to enforce the School Trust Lands director legislation that was passed in 2012, the role of director must be strengthened.

### Ballot Language

As a bond expires and a new one proposed, ballot language should be changed to more accurately reflect the impact to the homeowner.

### Teacher Shortage

Teacher shortage continues to be an issue. Alternative Pathways are necessary to attract non-traditional students into the teaching profession. The “Grow Your Own” program should be expanded to rural school districts.