
The Minnesota School Boards Association,

a leading advocate for public education,
supports, promotes and strengthens the work of public school boards.

 *MSBA believes* the state has a constitutional mandate to adequately fund our schools. A portion of the state surplus should be targeted to our schools to ensure every student is prepared to positively contribute to a strong 21st century economy.

 *MSBA believes* these priorities will provide the support our school boards require as they strive to meet World’s Best Workforce goals.

 *MSBA believes* there are many unfunded requirements and inequities in our education finance system. Consequently, we should concentrate on funding the current requirements before adding new programs or requirements.

I believe
in public
education

STAND UP
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Who I am
today began
with public
education

STAND UP
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School boards
strengthen
public
education

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FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2016 MSBA Legislative Priorities

“School boards matter because they put the public in public education.”

“School boards connect schools to community.”

“School boards strengthen public education.”

Success for Every Student

- Increase the basic general education per-pupil formula by 1 percent.

Close the Equity Gap

- Merge the Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE) and Q Comp programs as recommended by the 2014 Teacher Evaluation Work Group. Full funding should be phased in over the next five years so that all school districts have access to the \$260 per student.
- Provide agricultural and seasonal-recreational property tax credit for property owners.
- Adjust and update equalization formulas for school district levies where the formulas (debt service, long-term maintenance revenue, referendum levies, technology) have not kept pace with inflation and property values.

Technology

- Expand fair and equal access to broadband at home and school in order to meet the academic requirements of today and the demands of the future.
- Increase funding for the Telecommunications Equity Access program to ensure cost-effective high speed broadband access to every school.

Access to High Quality Teachers

- Pass a comprehensive “Teacher Shortage Act” that would include short-term and long-term solutions to increase the number of teacher candidates licensed in Minnesota and attract out-of-state licensed teachers to Minnesota.
- Provide realistic and reasonable pathways for high school teachers to obtain the credentials to teach concurrent enrollment courses as required by the Higher Learning Commission.

Early Education

- Fully fund the expansion of school-based early education programs allowing for school board flexibility in implementation and design to meet the needs of the local community.

Elections

- Repeal the new school board vacancy requirements.

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