

**Edina Public Schools District 273
Legislative Action Committee 2019-20
Platform Proposal for Edina School Board**

1. STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING

- Link the basic formula to inflation to provide a stable and consistent funding stream that allows school boards and administrators to engage in long-range planning.*
- Reject legislative proposals that divert money from public schools.*
- Allow locally-elected school boards to renew existing operating referendums.*
- Increase English learner funding to adequately support this important program.*

2. STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Support students on Individual Education Programs (IEPs) to be able to benefit from ADSIS intervention in areas not addressed on IEPs.
- Increase funding for the ADSIS program and base funding on the number of students eligible in the district.
- Create a special student status for students in intermediate school districts requiring an extraordinary level of care. Increase state funding for these students.
- Increase special education funding to reduce shortfalls in this important program.*
- Create a working group to develop a plan to fully fund special education and to eliminate the cross-subsidy by 2023.

3. IMPROVE STANDARDIZED TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS

- Create a task force to study standardized tests and make recommendations for changes to make Minnesota's system of standardized testing more meaningful, reliable, and useful.
- Reduce mandated state standardized testing.

4. REDUCE MANDATES AND INCREASE LOCAL CONTROL IN ORDER TO RAISE THE ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL OF ALL STUDENTS

- Oppose any new unfunded mandates and reduce existing mandates and burdensome paperwork requirements.*
- Regularly review federal and state mandates to verify relevance and alignment with other policy goals.
- Broaden the levy authority of school boards.

- Allow locally elected school boards to adopt the school calendar that best meets the needs of their students and community.

5. ENSURE SAFE, AND MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Remove the per-pupil limit and expand the allowable uses of Long-Term Facilities Revenue to allow school districts to enhance safety through security modifications, remodeling and additions to existing buildings.*
- Increase the Safe Schools Levy to include enhancement of cyber security.*

6. IMPROVE HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS AND NEEDS OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

- Provide access to additional support and services to address mental health. Additional funding is needed to add counselors, psychologists, and social workers in schools.*
- Create a Governor's task force to address the issue of teacher wellness.

7. INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE TEACHER WORKFORCE

- Expand programs and incentives to attract, develop, support and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas.*
- Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.*

8. CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- Provide additional support and funding to extend learning to before- and after-school programs, and summer programs.
- Provide additional support and funding for identification and teacher training in dyslexia and basic literacy instruction.
- Increase school readiness funding to provide low income and English learners access to high-quality preschool programs that prepare them for kindergarten.

*Aligned with Association of Metropolitan School Districts 2020 Legislative Platform (<https://www.amsd.org/2020session/>)