

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



MSBA, a leading advocate for public education, has been serving Minnesota school boards for 100 years. Today's 333 school boards provide local governance to the school districts who educate Minnesota's 850,000 public school students. The cornerstone principles that provide guidance for our legislative agenda and reflect Minnesota school districts and students are:

- **Efficient and effective school management**
- **Excellence in student achievement for all Minnesota students**
- **Respect of locally governed public schools**
- **Adequate and equitable funding levels to provide an exceptional education**

## SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

### **General Education Formula – 1% (\$65 million)**

While 2% and 2% on the general education formula last session is most appreciated, districts are still making further reductions to their budgets and staff. **Continue the work; provide additional revenue on the basic education formula for the second year of the biennium.**

### **School Safety Aid – (\$30.25 million)**

Minnesota schools have done some good work to keep students safe, but inconsistency in funding has left gaps in security and the ability to proactively address student's mental health needs.

**Continue the work; make permanent the 2019 school safety aid in order to hire social workers, counselors and other licensed mental health professionals.**

### **Special Education Cross-Subsidy – (\$68.5 million)**

Last session's appropriation holds the cross-subsidy relatively flat in FY20 and FY21, but the cross-subsidy is projected to rise to \$724 million in FY21 if the Legislature doesn't pursue additional legislation over the next two years. **Continue the work; decrease the special education cross-subsidy by 5 percent.**

## FACILITIES

Excellence in education requires school boards to provide quality, well-maintained learning environments for students and staff. 99% of school districts have levied Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) to the cap. It is the responsibility of school boards to maintain facilities. **Continue the work; increase the per pupil cap and expand the allowable uses for the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue to efficiently and effectively maintain safe school facilities.**

## ELECTIONS

### **School Board Vacancy Elections**

Prior to 2014, school boards had the authority to appoint a school board member to fill a board vacancy. In subsequent years, changes were made which decreased voter turnout and increased school district expenses. **Continue the work; restore the ability for school boards to appoint to fill a vacancy until the next general election.**

### **Combined Polling Places**

Beginning in 2016 school boards are required to pass a yearly resolution approving polling places for the following year. If a school board fails to pass a resolution, it could cost the district tens of thousands of dollars for election equipment and election judges for dozens of polling places, instead of just one or two combined polling places. **Continue the work; repeal the mandate and require an updated resolution only if the combined polling places have changed since the previous resolution.**

## TAXES

### **Local Optional Revenue tied to Formula Increases (\$7.4 million)**

94% of school districts are dependent on local optional revenue (LOR) for operating costs. This is a critical funding source to ensure school boards can maintain day-to-day operations. **Continue the work; tie LOR to the basic education formula to allow districts to retain its buying power.**

### **Link formula to inflation**

The average general education formula increase has not kept pace with rising and increased costs of school operations. **Continue the work; link the basic formula to inflation to provide stable and predictable funding, which allows school boards to plan long range.**

## RETAIN LOCAL CONTROL

**Over 30 bills were introduced in the 2019 session to restrict local control.**

- Retain the newly enacted tiered licensure system
- Retain flexibility for school boards to hire and maintain the most effective staff
- Retain local authority in determining curriculum course offerings, graduation requirements and other locally developed standards and programming where applicable
- Retain student choice for electives that the public is demanding, like CTE courses
- Raise the number of optional e-learning days from five to ten days
- Retain local control for school district discipline policies

## 333 ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS

**Local governance is the cornerstone of our public school system.**

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HILL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MCGREGOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ANOKA-HENNEPIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. FRANCIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FRAZEE-VERGAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PINE POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BEMIDJI PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BLACKDUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | KELLIHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RED LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FOLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. CLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MANKATO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | COMFREY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SLEEPY EYE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NEW ULM PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BARNUM PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CARLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CROMWELL-WRIGHT PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MOOSE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ESKO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WRENSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WAGONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WATERTOWN-MAYER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EASTERN CARVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WALKER-HACKENSACK-KELEY SCHOOLS | CASS LAKE-BENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PILLAGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NORTHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS | MONTEVIDEO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NORTH BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RUSH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BARNESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HAWLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MOORHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MINNESOTA STATE ACADEMIES | BAGLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | COOK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WINDOM PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BRAINERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CROSBY-IRONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PEQUOT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BURNSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LAKEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RANDOLPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROSEMOUNT-APPLE VALLEY-EAGAN | WEST ST. PAUL-MENDOTA HTS.-EAGAN | INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS | HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HAYFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | KASSON-MANTORVILLE SCHOOLS | ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | OSAKIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CHATFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LANESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MABEL-CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RUSHFORD-PETERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ALBERT LEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ALDEN-CONGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CENTRAL MINNESOTA E.R.D.C. | CANNON FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | GOODHUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PINE ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RED WING PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ASHBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HERMAN-NORCROSS SCHOOLS | HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EDEN PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EDINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ORONO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | OSSEO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RICHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROBBINSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. ANTHONY-NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOLS | ST. LOUIS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WAYZATA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BROOKLYN CENTER SCHOOLS | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 287 | SOUTHWEST METRO EDUCATIONAL COOP | HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SPRING GROVE SCHOOLS | CALEDONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LA CRESCENT-HOKAH SCHOOLS | LAPORTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NEVIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PARK RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BRAHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS | GREENWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DEER RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WASHWAUK-KEEWATIN SCHOOLS | FRANCONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HERON LAKE-OKABENA SCHOOLS | MORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | OGILVIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NEW LONDON-SPICER SCHOOLS | WILLMAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LANCASTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | INTERNATIONAL FALLS SCHOOLS | LITTLEFORK-BIG FALLS SCHOOLS | SOUTH KOOCHICHING SCHOOLS | DAWSON-BOYD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LAKE SUPERIOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NW REGION INTER COUNCIL | LAKE OF THE WOODS SCHOOLS | CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LAKE AGASSIZ SPECIAL ED. COOP | MIDWEST SPECIAL EDUCATION COOP | HENDRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | IVANHOE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LAKE BENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LYND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HUTCHINSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LESTER PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MAHONIMEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WAUBUN-OGEMA-WHITE EARTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MARSHALL COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS | GRYGLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | TRUMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS SCHOOLS | LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DASSEL-COKATO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ONAMIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LITTLE FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PIERZ PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROYALTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SWANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | UPSALA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | GRAND MEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LYLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LEROY-OSTRANDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SOUTHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FULDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NICOLET PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. PETER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ELLSWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WORTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BYRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DOVER-EYOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | STEWARTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BATTLE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FERGUS FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HENNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PARKERS PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PERHAM-DENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS | UNDERWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NEW YORK MILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | GOODRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | THIEF RIVER FALLS SCHOOLS | WILLOW RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PINE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EDGERTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CLIMAX-SHELLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CROOKSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EAST GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FERTILE-BELTRAMI SCHOOLS | FISHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FOSSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NORTH ST. PAUL-MAPLEWOOD DAKDALE | ROSEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WHITE BEAR LAKE SCHOOLS | ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RED LAKE FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MILROY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WABASSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FARIBAUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HILLS-BEAVER CREEK SCHOOLS | BADGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROSEAU PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WARRAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FLOODWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HERMANTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PROCTOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NETT LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MOUNTAIN IRON-BURL SCHOOLS | BELLE PLAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | JORDAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS | SHAKOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | NEW PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOLS | BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BIG LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ELK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | KIMBALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MELROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PAINESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. CLOUD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SAUK CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN SCHOOLS | RODARI PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CHOKIO-ALBERTA PUBLIC

## 850,000 STUDENTS

**Elected school boards are best positioned to work with their students, parents, and community to address local needs and challenges.**

SCHOOLS | KERKHOVEN-MURDOCK-SUNBURG | BENSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BERTHA-HEWITT PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BROWERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BROWNS VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WHEATON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WABASHA-KELLOGG PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LAKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | PRINSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS | VERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SEBEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MENAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WASECA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | FOREST LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MAHOMEDI PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS | STILLWATER AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BUTTERFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MADEIRA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. JAMES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BRECKENRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROTHSAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CAMPBELL-TINTAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LEWISTON-ALTURA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. CHARLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WINONA AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SOUTHERN MINN. SPECIAL SERVICE COOP | ANNANDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BUFFALO-HANDOVER-MONTROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MAPLE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MONTICELLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS | CANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI PUBLIC SCHOOLS | MILACA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ULEN-HITTERDAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | SOUTHERN PLAINS EDUCATION COOP | NORTHEAST METRO 916 | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 917 | NORTH COUNTRY VOC. COOP. CTR. | REGION 11-METRO EDUC. SERVICE UNIT | REGION 10-SOUTHEAST SERVICE COOP | REGION 9-SOUTH CENTRAL SERVICE COOP | REGION 7-RESOURCE TRNG AND SOLUTION | REGION 5-NATIONAL JOINT POWERS | REGION 4-LAKES COUNTY SERVICE COOP | REGION 3 - NORTHEAST SERVICE COOP | REGION 1 AND 2-NORTHWEST SVC. COOP | FERGUS FALLS AREA SP. ED. COOP. | MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION | OAK LAND VOCATIONAL COOPERATIVE | EAST RANGE SEC. TECHNICAL CENTER | WRIGHT TECHNICAL CENTER | MINNESOTA VALLEY COOPERATIVE | PINE TO PRAIRIE COOPERATIVE CTR. | REGN 6 AND 8-SW/WC SRV COOPERATIVE | AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE | BEMIDJI REGIONAL INTERDIST. COUNCIL | PERPICH CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION | CROSSWINDS | LAKE CRYSTAL-WELCOME MEMORIAL | TRITON SCHOOL | UNITED SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL DIST. | MAPLE RIVER SCHOOL | KINGSLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL | ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOL | WATERVILLE-ELYSIAN-MORRISTOWN | CHISAGO LAKES SCHOOL | MINNEWASKA SCHOOL | EVELETH-GILBERT SCHOOL | WADENA-DEER CREEK SCHOOL | BUFFALO LK-HECTOR-STEWART PUBLIC SCHOOL | DILWORTH-GLYNDOON-FELTON | HINDKLEY-FINLAYSON SCHOOLS | LAKEVIEW SCHOOL | NRHEG SCHOOL | MURRAY COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOL DIST. | STAPLES-MOTLEY SCHOOLS | HINTON CENTRAL SCHOOLS | KENYON-WANAMINGO SCHOOLS | PINE RIVER-BACKUS SCHOOLS | WARREN-ALVARADO-OSLO SCHOOLS | M.A.C.C.R.A.Y. SCHOOL | LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | YELLOW MEDICINE EAST | FILLMORE CENTRAL | NORMAN COUNTY EAST SCHOOLS | SIBLEY EAST SCHOOLS | CLEARBROOK-GONVICK SCHOOLS | WEST CENTRAL AREA | TRI-COUNTY SCHOOLS | BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA SCHOOLS | G.F.W. | A.C.G.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LE SUEUR-HENDERSON SCHOOLS | MARTIN COUNTY WEST SCHOOLS | NORMAN COUNTY WEST SCHOOLS | BIRD ISLAND-OLIVIA-LAKE LILLIAN | GRANADA HUNTLEY-EAST CHAIN | EAST CENTRAL SCHOOLS | WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL | GREENBUSH-MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOLS | HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTE | PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS | MESABI EAST SCHOOLS | FAIRMONT AREA SCHOOLS | LONG PRAIRIE-GREY EAGLE SCHOOLS | CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOL | MORRIS AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA SCHOOLS | JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON | LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY SCHOOLS | ADA-BORUP PUBLIC SCHOOLS | STEPHEN-ARGYLE CENTRAL SCHOOLS | GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE SCHOOLS | BLUE EARTH AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | RED ROCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS | GLENVIEW-EMMONS SCHOOLS | CLINTON-GRACEVILLE-BEARDSLEY | LAKE PARK ADUBON SCHOOLS | RENVILLE COUNTY WEST SCHOOLS | JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS | REDWOOD AREA SCHOOLS | WESTBROOK-WALNUT GROVE SCHOOLS | PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE | RTR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ORTONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | TRACY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | TRI-CITY UNITED SCHOOLS | RED LAKE COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ROUND LAKE-BREWSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | BRANDON-EVANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## REDUCE MANDATES

**Each school district faces unique needs which depend on a variety of factors, including demographics, geography, and district size.**

- Repeal the resolution requirement for combined polling place
- Repeal the report to PELSB for Probationary Teacher Release
- Repeal requirement to publish minutes and budget information in a local newspaper
- Resist statewide mandates that conflict with local bargaining
- Reinstate the sales tax exemption for school district fundraising
- Reinstate the “pending” status for a new teacher who has completed a district background check
- Reduce special education paperwork in the areas of functional behavioral assessment and short-term objectives
- Reinstate school board authority to determine school calendar
- Repeal requirement that percentage of district compensatory funding be used for extended time
- Replace wage theft notification with a collective bargaining agreement
- Recognize a grace period is sometimes necessary for wage theft notification