



# 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.**

