



2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mission Statement

our core purpose

Mankato Area Public Schools is committed to working together equitably, with families and communities, so that each learner has the knowledge and skills to be a successful and contributing citizen in a diverse global society.

Legislative Priorities

fully fund public education

The Mankato Area Public Schools' Legislative Committee developed a legislative platform for 2023 that reflects the urgent challenges of the largest school district in south central Minnesota. When fully funded, Mankato Area Public Schools will be positioned to raise the achievement of all student groups by empowering staff with the resources required to support students in realizing their full potential.

School Funding

- Full funding of all state mandates.
- Increase funding for special education and non-special education staff; intervention staff in the areas of reading and mathematics; classroom staff to lower class sizes; social workers.
- Address the underfunding of special education mandates by eliminating the cross-subsidy.
- Increase special education funding to allow for lower student:teacher ratios and improved wages for support staff.
- Prioritize pre-kindergarten and early childhood education access by funding school-based early childhood programming, including fully funded preschool screening.
- Expand long-term facilities maintenance funding and its eligible uses to address local facility needs.
- Expand reimbursement of third party billing to include social workers providing mental health services for students with special needs.





Mental Health Support

- Support increased mental health staff to address social-emotional learning needs.
- Fund mental health screener tools to identify student needs and interventions.

Teacher Recruitment & Retention

- Restore funding for “Grow Your Own” concurrent enrollment courses and expand funding for community-wide opportunities focused on developing the Minnesota teacher workforce. This includes diversifying the state’s teaching ranks and providing incentives for paraprofessionals to become licensed teachers.
- Provide funding for school districts to establish accessible mental health supports for educators to ensure a healthy and sustainable workforce.
- Expand student loan forgiveness to encourage retention in local school districts.
- Review teacher retirement age and benefits and align to neighboring states.



Innovation

- Establish a streamlined process to seek waivers from state statute or department requirements to provide flexibility for school districts to conduct action research on innovative teaching and learning ideas. For example, school district and higher education collaboration, school-business career pathways, classroom-childcare-community partnerships.
- Support flexibility to expand teacher licensure pathways.



Legislative Committee Members

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