



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Our district is committed to giving scholars and families the educational experience they desire and deserve as outlined in our strategic plan. It's a bold future, but one our scholars are in desperate need of after some tough years. It's going to take the financial backing of our state and communities to bring this to life. As such, we strongly believe that educational decisions that directly impact our scholars should be made at the local level. The following priorities have been identified to secure the necessary funds to achieve these critical needs:

## PROVIDE STABLE, PREDICTABLE FUNDING

- Increase the general education formula by an additional 2% for fiscal year 2025.
- Link all categorical funding to inflationary increases in the general education formula.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$920 per pupil and link to the basic formula.
- Fully fund the Special Education cross subsidy.
- Provide funding for new programs adopted in 2023:
  - Ongoing funding for Unemployment Insurance
  - Fully fund Paid Family Medical Leave
  - Fully fund Earned Safe and Sick Time
  - Fully fund the READ Act

## ADDRESS THE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

- Expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers of color.
- Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students.
- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of teachers, education service professionals, and other staff.

## ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

- Increase Safe Schools funding to support the mental health needs of scholars and staff.
- Expand the allowable uses of long-term facility maintenance funding to include the modification of buildings to enhance safety and security.
- Clarify language related to the use of physical restraints to ensure the safety of students and staff.

## REDUCE MANDATES

- Fully fund all existing or future mandates.
- Reduce the number of required standardized tests so school districts can offer assessments that more accurately measure growth, proficiency and college or career readiness.

*These platform items align with those of several statewide education organizations, including Association of Metropolitan School Districts, Minnesota School Boards Association, Minnesota Association of School Administrators, and Minnesota Association of School Business Officials.*

Our **mission** is to inspire and prepare each and every scholar with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.

Part of the work of our strategic plan has included an update to this mission statement and the creation of a vision, core values and strategic directions. School board members approved the plan in 2021 after two years of research and analysis with parents/caregivers, scholars, staff, and community members. This is the starting point for bringing our district to the next level of excellence and giving scholars and families the educational experience they desire and deserve. Visit [district279.org/StrategicPlan](https://district279.org/StrategicPlan) for more information.

#### OUR DISTRICT SERVES MORE THAN:

**21,000** preK-12 scholars and

**150,000** community members  
living in eight cities:

Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Dayton,  
Maple Grove, Osseo, Plymouth, and Rogers

#### SCHOLAR COMPOSITION:

**63%** are scholars of color

**42%** are scholars receiving free/  
reduced meals

**13%** are scholars receiving special  
education services

**11%** are English Learners scholars



#### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Jacqueline Mosqueda-Jones  
Tanya Prince  
Thomas Brooks  
Heather Douglass  
Tamara Grady  
Sarah Mitchell

#### DISTRICT LEADERS:

Dr. Kim Hiel Superintendent  
  
John Morstad  
Executive Director of Finance  
and Operations

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