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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### WE SUPPORT

- ▶ **Adequate Funding Formula.** A funding formula with per pupil payments that keeps pace with inflation.
- ▶ **Increased Funding for Special Education.** Additional funding to fully cover the cost of providing federally mandated supports for students with disabilities.
- ▶ **Therapeutic Supports.** Increased funding mechanisms for schools to be reimbursed for providing therapeutic support for students with disabilities.
- ▶ **Multilingual Learners.** Funding to aid in the removal of barriers that prevent Multilingual Learners (English Learners) from accessing education.
- ▶ **Student Support Services.** Funding for safe and restorative environments that invest in school-based mental health professionals, school social workers, school psychologists and positive behavioral intervention programs in schools.
- ▶ **Public School Flexibility.** Increased opportunities and funding for public school choice without limitations to school accountability and enrollment criteria.

### WE ADVOCATE FOR

- ▶ **Staff Recruitment.** Recruitment and retention efforts for all public-school staff and implementation of the recommendations made by the North Dakota Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force.
- ▶ **“Grow Your Own” Efforts.** Teacher pipeline programs designed to provide current staff with the opportunity to obtain the education, skills, and training, to be a teacher, including the Educator Pathway and the Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Pathway.
- ▶ **School Construction Funding.** Sustaining and broadening of the School Construction Assistance Revolving Fund.
- ▶ **School Safety and Security Efforts.** Strengthening school safety and security by providing schools with the necessary resources to fund security personnel, technology, and hardware.
- ▶ **Free Student Meals.** Continuation and expansion of low and no-cost meal benefits for students to improve student outcomes and behavior in the classroom.
- ▶ **Childcare Relief.** Programs to support working families with childcare relief and early childhood education.
- ▶ **Partnership Initiatives.** The efforts of partnership agencies including the North Dakota Council for Educational Leaders and the North Dakota School Boards Association.
- ▶ **Educator Autonomy.** The academic freedom of educators, who through pedagogically sound and appropriate curricula and teaching standards, utilize their expertise and professionalism to spark curiosity and critical thinking and prepare all students for their present and future.

### WE OPPOSE

- ▶ **Using public dollars to fund private education.** Public dollars should be reserved for public schools and not diverted to non-public schools through the implementation of funding mechanisms such as voucher programs, education savings accounts, and tax credit scholarship programs.
- ▶ **Unfunded mandates.** All current and future directives for public school should include the necessary funding to ensure effective and efficient implementation.