



2025

Legislative Platform

for the 95th Session of the Minnesota Legislature

STMA acknowledges and appreciates the investments in education approved in the 2023 legislative session. The additional funding provides a foundation for restoring Minnesota's commitment to education. However, even with the new funding, historic inflation and new mandates adopted in the 2023 session have challenged already strained budgets. Many districts across Minnesota, including STMA, are still grappling with significant budget shortfalls.

FUNDING and EQUALIZATION

Funding has not kept pace with inflation, unfunded and partially funded mandates, and the increase in student needs. STMA ranks 323/328 in per pupil revenue. Inadequate funding has created large disparities in opportunities for our students. The governor and legislators should:

- Increase the basic formula allowance by an additional 3% over the base.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue for inflation to \$974 per pupil and link to the basic formula to recover inflationary losses.
- Increase Safe Schools levy from \$36 to \$108 per pupil to ensure safe and secure learning environments.
- Increase equalization of operating and local optional levies to provide taxpayer relief.

For STMA, these combined adjustments would amount to an additional \$3.7 million annually or 46 staff members.

LOCAL CONTROL

Mandates that divert resources of time or money are a hardship for the lowest-funded school districts such as STMA. As each district is unique, each school board must have the local control to manage limited resources to provide the best possible education for all students. The governor and legislators should:

- Resist new, statewide, underfunded mandates that further strain district budgets.
- Fully fund mandates from the 2023 legislative sessions including Paid Family Medical Leave, Earned Sick and Safe Time, READ Act, and Unemployment Insurance.
- Create incentives and pathways to attract, develop, and retain educators.
- Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students.



The mission of STMA Schools is to provide a safe educational environment where students develop lifelong learning skills that nurture positive attitudes and self-worth.



Approved by the STMA School Board 12-02-2024