



2026

# Legislative Platform

*for the 96th Session of the Minnesota Legislature*

STMA School Board Approved 12-01-2025

**Strong public schools depend on stable funding, equitable access to resources, and the ability of locally elected school boards to make decisions that best serve their communities. As one of the lowest-funded districts in Minnesota, STMA asks the Legislature to support policies and funding that ensure all students—regardless of ZIP code—have access to high-quality educational opportunities.**

## FUNDING and EQUALIZATION

Adequate and equitable funding is essential to support student learning, maintain manageable class sizes, and provide the services students deserve and families expect.

- Maintain the basic formula, including the inflationary increases currently in statute.
- Increase Local Optional Revenue from \$724 to \$974 per pupil to recover ground lost to inflation since the program was established in 2014.
- Increase the 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.
- Maintain Special Education cross-subsidy aid (not reduce \$250M).

## LOCAL CONTROL

Districts must have the flexibility to manage limited resources and make decisions that meet the needs of the students they serve.

- Fully fund all new and existing mandates—including those recently adopted—and collaborate with educators to fully understand the impact of any proposed requirements before they move forward.
- Support aligning state special education requirements with federal requirements to eliminate unnecessary due process paperwork mandates, while preserving local control to design and implement effective workload-reduction strategies.



*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.*

