

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools



**DISTRICT196**  
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

## MISSION

*Educating, developing, and inspiring our students for lifelong success.*

## VISION

District 196 provides the experiences that our students, families and employees desire by:

- Developing the whole student and honoring diverse needs and cultures;
- Engaging students with opportunities in academics, arts and athletics, and
- Living our mission and core values to prepare students, families and employees for lifelong success.

## CORE VALUES

Student-Centered  
Empathy  
Wellness  
Integrity  
Achievement  
Collaboration  
Community  
Lifelong Learning

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Well-being  
Achievement  
Equity  
Resources

## CONTACT

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**Thank you for supporting public education.  
Minnesota's future is in our schools today.**

District 196 values the significant investment Minnesotans have made in their public schools. We applaud the legislature for working to stabilize school funding by tying the Basic Education formula to an inflationary index.

With a focus on policy and bonding during the 2026 Session, and recognizing current state and federal challenges, we urge the legislature to protect existing education funding as the best investment it can make in our state's future.



## Stable and Predictable Funding

- Protect the Basic Education formula inflationary index.
- Hold harmless district's compensatory revenue and improve how students in need are identified and served, while awaiting the Compensatory Revenue Task Force recommendations.
- Repeal the contingent \$250 million cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid, scheduled for the 2028–29 biennium.
- Provide full ongoing state funding, or repeal, summer unemployment for non-licensed school staff.
- Allow school boards to renew a capital project levy at the existing rate following a public hearing. [Note: Voters approved the District 196 levy in 2015 and renewed their commitment in 2025 through 2035 with 68% support.]



One District.

**INFINITE  
POSSIBILITIES.**



APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- 28,934 students
- 4,000 employees (A Forbes Best-in-State Employer)
- 165,000 residents
- 45% students of color (37% statewide)
- 32% of students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals (43% statewide)
- 18% of students receive special education services (18% statewide)
- 9% of students qualify for English Learner services (9% statewide)
- More than 82% of school-age students who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools

## Safe and Supportive Schools

- Raise the cap on the School Safety Levy to provide districts greater flexibility to address a full range of local safety needs, consistent with best practices and community expectations.
- Continue efforts to improve youth mental health supports through access to high-quality healthcare for all and by increasing the number of social workers and mental health professionals.

## Teacher Licensure

- Require post-secondary institutions to include READ Act training requirements in teacher preparation and licensure programs.
- Continue to invest in teacher recruitment and preparation programs.
- Revise child protection laws to extend the statute of limitations for victims to pursue prosecution of inappropriate teacher-student relationships; streamline associated reporting to MDE and PELSB.