2027 Legislative Platform

for the 2027 Minnesota Legislative Session

STMA School Board Approved 11-16-2026

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

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

- **Maintain special education cross-subsidy aid** and repeal the $250 million reduction to special education funding.
- **Link Local Optional Revenue to inflation.** Funding has not increased since 2014.
- **Fully fund or repeal Summer Term Unemployment Insurance.** Funding expires after the 2026–2027 biennium, an estimated annual cost of $500,000 to STMA.

LOCAL CONTROL

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

- **Exempt school districts from MN Paid Leave** due to operational and financial burdens, as staff contracts already provide leave.
- **Provide flexibility in teacher licensing**, particularly in special education to address staffing shortages.
- **Fully fund mandates** and collaborate with educators to assess impacts before they move forward.

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.

