



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

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### **AMSD Conference Committee Priorities 2023**

State policymakers have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen and stabilize Minnesota's education funding system. For too long, the state has failed to sufficiently fund the general education formula and the special education and English learner programs. The pandemic and historic inflation have compounded the financial challenges facing our school districts. To stabilize the funding system and help students recover from the pandemic, AMSD urges the Governor and Legislators to:

- Increase the basic formula by 5 percent per year for the next two years and then index the formula to inflation;
- At a minimum, increase special education and English learner funding to reduce the cross-subsidies by 60 percent;
- Allow locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum;
- Provide funding, without a required district match, to allow school districts to hire counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and chemical dependency counselors;
- Cover the cost of making school hourly workers eligible for unemployment compensation;
- Make funding for the Voluntary Pre-K program permanent and expand access to the program;
- Approve the Read Act and provide resources and training for staff in evidence-based, structured literacy instruction; and
- Increase funding for programs to attract, develop, and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas.

*In addition, AMSD is opposed to HF1522/SF1384 and urges Legislators and the Governor to refrain from enacting any unfunded mandates and to honor the historical role of school boards and their administrators to govern and manage their school districts. School board members are elected to represent parents, students, staff, and their communities. It is imperative that locally elected school boards have the decision-making authority to respond to local needs and challenges and align resources to meet the needs of their students.*