

CONNECTIONS

News from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Edina Public Schools: Portrait of a Well-Rounded Graduate

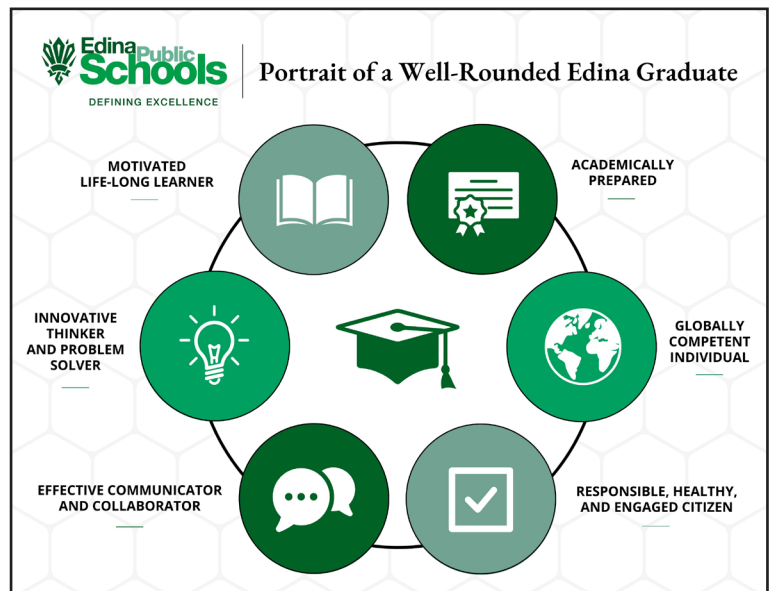
August 25, 2023
Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

September 8, 2023
Board of Directors Meeting
7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada

September 29, 2023
Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

October 6, 2023
Board of Directors Meeting
7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada

Edina Public Schools has long been known for preparing a high number of students for post-secondary college experiences. To live out its strategic plan priority for providing students with access to a comprehensive curriculum that develops critical thinking skills and dispositions, and assures students are ready for their next level and the challenges and opportunities in the next phase of life, Edina Public Schools has moved to foster deeper connections with the local business community.



This partnership began in the summer of 2021 when then new Superintendent Dr. Stacie Stanley joined the board for the Edina Chamber. Then in the fall of 2021, in partnership with the Chamber, Edina Public Schools hosted more than 50 local businesses and higher education institutions for the first ever business round table. During this engaging experience, business and higher education leaders provided feedback on the Edina Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate. The iteration reviewed had been developed several years earlier based on over a thousand feedback points provided by parents, teachers, and administrators.

After applying business community guidance along with the feedback from

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I am very honored to have the opportunity to serve as the chair of AMSD for the 2023-24 school year. I look forward to working with AMSD members over the next year to build on our progress in the 2023 legislative session. The AMSD Legislative Committee will soon begin drafting the 2024 legislative platform, and input from AMSD board members and district staff is critical to that work. Please look for a survey and share your legislative priorities and suggestions in the coming days. Enjoy the rest of summer, and best wishes for a successful start to the school year!

From the AMSD Chair, Marcus Hill, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Board Member

Cultivating Business Partnerships and Expanding Options for Each and Every Student

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Dr. Stacie Stanley addresses leaders at Edina Public School's first Business Roundtable event.

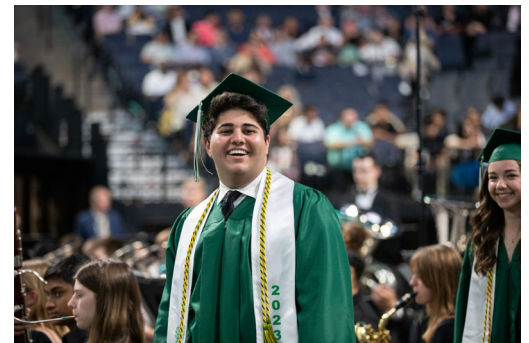
recent alumni, this guiding framework emerged as the *Edina Public Schools Portrait of a Well-Rounded Graduate* and was formally adopted by the school board in the 2022-23 school year. Teaching and Learning Director Jody De St. Hubert was instrumental in the development of the final iteration of our *Portrait of a Well-Rounded Graduate* and describes it as "a north star that ensures students are ready to bring positive impact to the workforce."

The guiding framework provides a unifying and common vision for the academic skills and dispositions our community desires for our EHS graduates to hold as they leave its four walls to embark on their post-secondary experience.

The framework has also been pivotal in establishing the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory council. Council members include business partners such as Xcel Energy, Artic Wolf, Inherited Stories, Blue Cross Minnesota, and several other businesses who participated in the roundtable in 2021; higher education partners including representatives from the University of Minnesota and Normandale Community College, and Edina Public Schools students and teachers. CTE advisory council feedback for the *Portrait of a Well-Rounded Graduate* was overwhelmingly positive and endorsed as a guiding framework for college and career preparedness that demonstrates a balance of technical and important soft skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and curiosity.

Member businesses are taking their commitment one step further by partnering with Edina to develop a diverse offering of internships. Students will work with organizations such as Xcel Energy, Artic Wolf, Rem5 Virtual Reality, and Thunderbird Aviation in computer science, hospitality and tourism, and marketing. The opportunities are as diverse and varied as high school students' interests.

To ensure intentionality around the outcomes, the Community Education Director position was refashioned to include a focus on strategic partnerships and Dr. Anne Marie Leland was hired for this updated role in July 2022. Dr. Leland, along with teacher leaders, developed the advisory board as a way to garner industry-based consult and authentically engage student and teacher voice. "Our work to develop career pathways is vetted through this team," said Dr. Leland. "This authentic feedback from industry leaders is a linchpin toward developing a new generation pathways model that defines excellence in the Pre-K-12 system," added Superintendent Stanley.



Sabeehudeen Mirza, a class of 2023 Edina High School graduate.

The Profile also served as the foundation for the Youth Skills Training grant application that was spearheaded by Dr. Leland. "We were absolutely thrilled to receive the \$100,000 grant award, which will be used in a myriad of ways to launch our Information Technology Pathway."

This month's member feature was submitted by Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent, and Daphne Edwards, Director of Marketing and Communications, Edina Public Schools.

Key AMSD Priorities Included in Education Bill

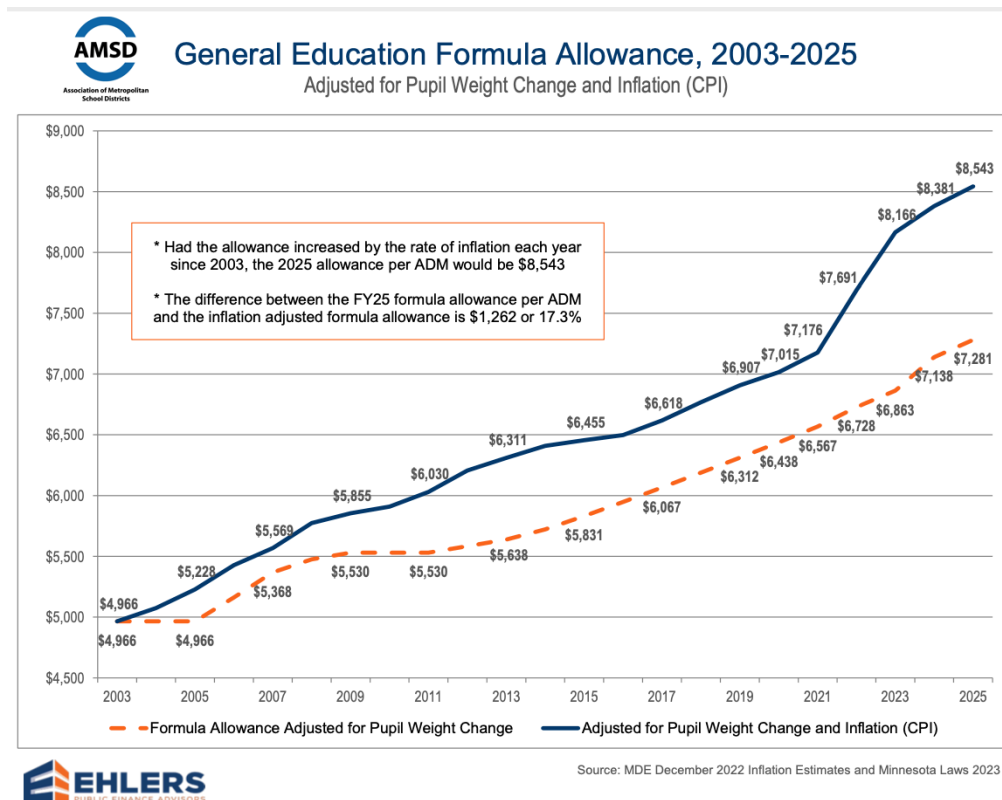
The 2023 omnibus education bill is historic both in terms of new funding and new programs and requirements for school districts. The bill increased funding by \$2.5 billion for the 2024-25 biennium and \$3.3 billion for the 2026-27 biennium. Several long-time AMSD priorities were included in the bill:

- Linking the formula to inflation with a minimum increase of 2 percent and a maximum increase of 3 percent.
- Allowing locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum.
- Reducing the massive shortfalls (cross-subsidies) in the special education and English learner programs.
- Expanding funding for the Voluntary PreKindergarten program and providing ongoing funding for the existing 4,000 PreK seats.
- Funding to attract and retain educators and diversify the workforce.

At the same time, many school districts continue to face budget challenges over the next two years. At least six AMSD districts, and likely more, have indicated they plan to ask their communities to support a referendum this fall to provide the resources their students need. Why, even with the historic funding approved by the Governor and Legislature, are many districts continuing to face challenges?

A confluence of factors have created a challenging fiscal environment for many school districts despite the new funding approved by the Governor and Legislature. The biggest factors at play are:

- Key funding streams have not kept pace with inflation. While overall education funding has outpaced inflation over the past two decades, two critical funding streams — the basic formula and local optional revenue — have lagged significantly behind inflation. As the charts below show, the basic formula would be \$1,262 per pupil higher in FY 2025 if it had kept pace with inflation since 2003 and local optional revenue would be \$182 per pupil higher today if it had increased by the rate of inflation since 2014 — the year it went into effect.

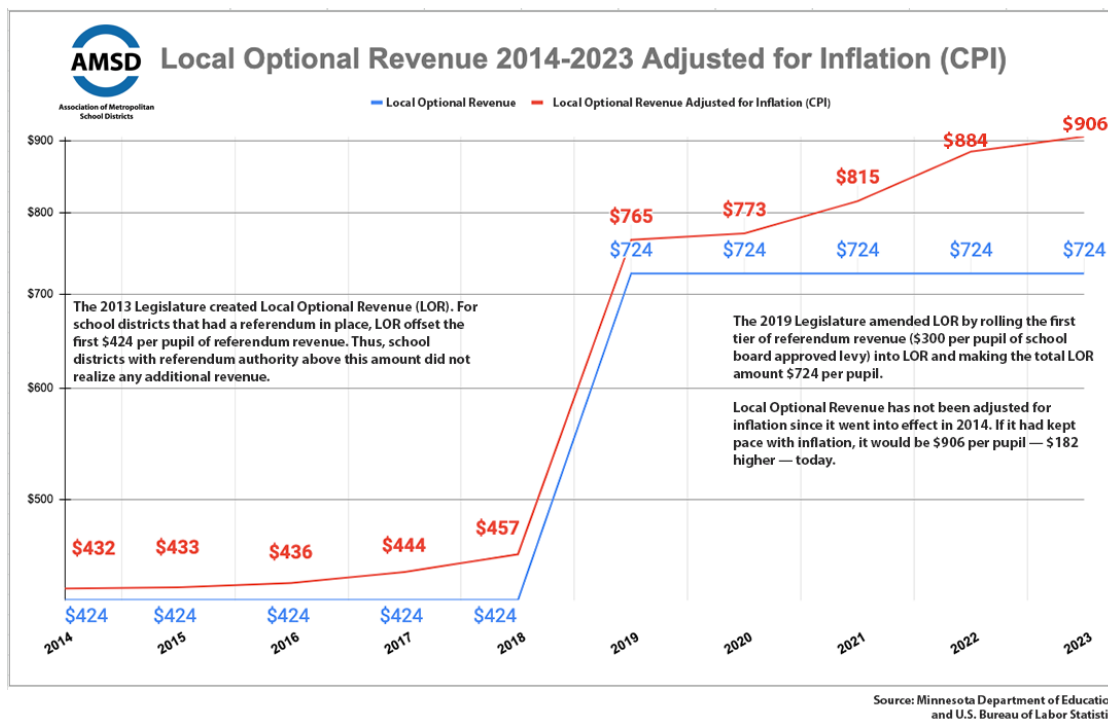


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2023 Session: Historic Funding, Historic Expectations, and a Looming 'Fiscal Cliff'

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- The funding increase wasn't the only thing that was historic in the education bill. The bill also included historic new expectations and requirements for school districts. While AMSD members support many of the new initiatives, the reality is the new requirements come with increased costs. In addition, AMSD members are very concerned about the loss of local control and important managerial rights that allow them to meet the needs of their students, staff and community.
- Major changes were adopted to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act. The full impact of these changes is yet to be determined but could very well lead to increased costs for school districts.
- Historic inflation and staffing shortages. The most recent economic reports show inflation dropping to around 3 percent — but one year ago, inflation was 9 percent. In addition, school districts have significantly increased salaries in a number of job categories in response to staffing shortages.
- The federal government provided unprecedented resources to school districts in response to the global pandemic. These resources are critical as school districts work to help students recover from the impacts of the pandemic, but they are winding down over the next year creating what has been referred to as a "looming fiscal cliff."
- Demographics and the pandemic have caused significant enrollment fluctuations for many school districts. With state education funding largely distributed through per pupil formulas, this has had a significant impact on school district revenue.



With the new school year rapidly approaching, school leaders are working hard to implement the new programs and requirements and welcome their students back to class. The omnibus education bill made strides toward stabilizing the funding system and providing important resources for students and staff. Minnesota's education funding system has long been a state and local partnership and local referendums will continue to play an important role in providing the resources needed to help all students succeed. AMSD members look forward to working with state policymakers in the 2024 legislative session to build on the progress made in 2023.