

March 2, 2021

Rep. Jim Davnie
443 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Ron Kresha
207 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Roger Chamberlain
3225 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Chuck Wiger
2219 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Education Chairs and Minority Leads:

We are writing to urge you to pass legislation addressing key COVID-19 recovery issues prior to the legislature's spring recess which begins on March 26. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruptions for students, parents, teachers, school district administrators and board members.

School officials are working to develop summer learning opportunities to address the disrupted and lost learning opportunities many students have experienced. In addition, school districts are dealing with the significant impact of the pandemic related enrollment decline as they work to develop budgets for the summer and the 2021-22 school year. While many students and parents are thrilled to be returning to in person learning, some have expressed safety concerns and are requesting distance learning as a delivery model option for next year.

To help school boards, administrators, teachers and families meet the challenges of the pandemic and properly plan for the summer and the 2021-22 school year, we respectfully ask that you pass legislation addressing at least the following issues prior to leaving for the spring recess on March 26:

- Mitigate the impact of the enrollment decline related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provide funding for summer programming opportunities to address unfinished learning as well as student support services to meet the mental health needs of students.
- Increase flexibility in extended time programs to serve more students and expand opportunities.
- Extend authority for school districts to offer distance learning through the 2021-22 school year to students and families who desire that option.
- Streamline the process to obtain a short-call substitute teaching license to align with the Tier 1 licensing requirement to teach a class in a career and technical education or career pathways course of study.

Thank you for your consideration and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can over the next three weeks to pass legislation that meets the needs of our students and our communities.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts



MN Administrators for Special Education



MN Association of School Administrators



MN Association of School Business Officials



MN Association of Secondary School Principals



MN Community Education Association



Minnesota Community Education Association

MN Elementary School Principals Association



MN Rural Education Association



MN School Boards Association



MN Service Cooperatives



Schools for Equity in Education



CC: Governor Tim Walz
Speaker Melissa Hortman
Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
Minority Leader Susan Kent
Minority Leader Kurt Daudt
Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker