



May 12, 2024

Rep. Youakim
443 State Office Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Clardy
529 State Office Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Edelson
549 State Office Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Sencer-Mura
417 State Office Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Kresha
207 State Office Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Kunesch
3209 MN Senate Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Cwodzinski
3207 MN Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Gustafson
3103 MN Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Maye Quade
3227 MN Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Boldon
3201 MN Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Omnibus Education Finance Bill Conferees:

Thank you for meeting with us throughout the session and listening to our ideas and our concerns. We appreciate your commitment to our public schools and making sure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As we have testified throughout the session, school boards, administrators, teachers, and other staff are working very hard to implement the new programs and requirements adopted in the 2023 session. The overriding message we hear from our collective memberships is that they need additional resources and time to ensure the new programs are implemented successfully before adding new requirements.

As you carry out the work of reconciling the proposals offered by the Governor and reflected in the House and Senate Omnibus Education Finance Bills, we would like to highlight a few of our key priorities and areas of concern.

We support and appreciate

- Extension of the statewide compensatory hold harmless beyond FY 27.
- The efforts and funding to support the student attendance initiatives.
- The increased flexibility and additional one-time funding for staff costs within The Read Act.
- The expanded uses for Literacy Incentive Aid.
- The carry-over for Student Support Aid.
- The expansion of the special education teacher pipeline grants.
- The House language supporting the student teacher stipend pilot program.
- Reexamining the standards for paraprofessionals.
- The special education apprenticeship grant.
- The flexibility with Fund 2 balances to purchase lunchroom furniture.
- The additional and permanent 5,200 seats for the Voluntary Pre-K program.
- The Permanent School Fund Distribution of Endowment Fund Earnings Task Force.

We respectfully oppose

- Moving from locally adopted health standards to statewide health education standards. We are concerned about the potential to increase credit requirements and decrease the opportunity for electives for our students.
- The multiple new requirements related to cardiac emergency response plans.

- We are deeply concerned at the expansion of the Inspector General powers in the Senate bill. We strongly suggest the House language as we believe it is a more measured approach.

Again, thank you for your consideration and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can over the next final days to pass legislation that meets the needs of our students and our communities.

Respectfully,

Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)
Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA)
Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD)
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA)
Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA)