



**Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

**2024 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

*A survey of membership on AMSD  
for the 2023-24 Legislative Season*

June 2024

35 respondents

24 Superintendents, 6 School Board Members, 5 Other

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## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### AMSD Day at the Capitol 2024

*More than 100 school board members, superintendents, district staff, parents, and students attended AMSD's Day at the Capitol on Wed., March 25*

Did you attend the Day at the Capitol?			
	Yes	No	
	21	15	
Did you find the day valuable?			
	Very valuable	Somewhat valuable	Not at all.
	16	6	0
Was the time convenient?			
	Easy	Neither difficult or convenient	Difficult
	14	8	1
Did you schedule meetings with your local legislators during the Day at the Capitol?			
	Yes	No	Other
	18	2	5
Did you get feedback from your legislator?			
	Yes	No	
	19	3	Another Board member went to represent our Dist. She reported back.
What could make the day better?			
	Could there be a bigger room for the opening gathering? The space is tight and it seems more and more people come each year, making it standing room only and over flow into the hallway (which is hard to hear the presenters).		
	I think the day was well organized and easy for our team to attend. The initial space was a little tight, but hopefully that was because attendance was high.		
	No suggestions - love your communication		
	Perhaps there could be larger space to kick off the meeting. The legislators/speakers did a great job but the room was not conducive for Q & A.		
	Schedule a formal panel of legislators to speak to the AMSD attendees about what is happening in the session.		
	Specific talking points for each of the top priorities (that we can give to students or staff who attend with us)		
	The timing was bad for me this year. I hope to attend next year.		



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### AMSD Day at the Capitol 2024

*More than 100 school board members, superintendents, district staff, parents, and students attended AMSD's Day at the Capitol on Wed., March 25*

Should AMSD continue to host a separate Day at the Capitol or should we instead focus on encouraging members to attend the MASA/MSBA Day at the Capitol?

Yes, continue to host an AMSD Day at the Capitol

No, focus on encouraging members to attend the MASA/MSBA Day at the Capitol

19

6

#### Comments

We have no preference if these are combined or separate

I have no preference. I was able to attend MASA.MSBA day at the Capitol both this year and last.

I am open to either

not sure, but maybe all three could combine

Perhaps a hybrid approach. Collaborate where our priorities match and allow for specific Metro priorities when we might differ.

I think we should combine and have a joint name for the combined effort (e.g., AMSD & MASA Day at the Capitol)

see benefits of both, and I do wonder about the influence in having organizations there together.

I really don't have a feeling one way or another.

I had a conflict with MASA/MSBA Day at the Capitol so it was nice to have a different opportunity.

Sometimes it is nice to have both dates to choose from (and get more of my board members to attend), but it would also be nice to have AMSD partner with MSBA/MASA, because that is such a nice legislation 101 time for newer board members.

If you can't make one date, it is good to have a second date option.

I see value in having two organized days as long as they are not scheduled close together on the calendar. That being said, I am very curious how legislators feel about hosting two days that are similar.



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

*Which AMSD resources you use to stay informed  
about what is happening at the Capitol*

Email Updates	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	31	1		
AMSD Webpage				
	3	24	4	1
Connections Newsletter				
	16	16	2	1
Bill Tracker				
	11	16	6	1
Position Papers				
	12	15	2	1
Other research (Cross-Subsidy Comparisons, etc.)				
	11	17	5	
Facebook				
		3	11	19
Twitter				
	1	6	7	19
Other				
In addition to updates on legislative action, the weekly emails include updates on the MN Department of Education, PELSB, State and Federal Grant Opportunities, and links to newspaper articles. Please indicate how valuable you find each of these. (You may select more than one choice)				
Legislative Updates	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
	33	1		
MDE Updates	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
	25	9		
PELSB Updates	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
	15	18	1	
Grant Opportunities	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
	11	21	2	
Newspaper / Magazine Articles	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not valuable	
	19	14	1	
Other				
	Training opportunities - very valuable			



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### AMSD CORRESPONDENCE

*How do you engage the following correspondence from AMSD?*

AMSD Email Updates	I open and read every email	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	30	4		
Connections	I open and read every email	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	21	12	1	

*How do you use the Executive Director's AMSD Email Updates?*

I read it in my email.	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	32	2		
I forward the email to district staff.				
	11	15	7	1
I forward the email to parents, parent groups or non-district employees.				
	1	7	8	18

**Comments:**

- Sometimes I clip information into my community newsletter
- It's not the role of a school board member to forward them to staff, parents/groups or non-district employees.

**What do you find most useful about the email updates?**

- Updates are very helpful as things move very quickly.
- the email updates were very helpful! I could find what I needed quickly.
- All are fine, but emails every 2 weeks for me is sufficient.
- Personal anecdotes
- Looks good!
- I think the amount of information and methods to communicate with members is appropriate.
- Clear and timely communication
- Appreciate the updates. Their length is reasonable and I often refer back to them.
- Appreciate the content and format
- AMSD Communication is second to none! Keep up the great work!

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**Association of Metropolitan School Districts**  
**Communicating with Legislators**

*How frequently you communicated with elected officials,  
 AMSD Calls to Action, and Legislative Alerts*

Did you communicate regularly with your elected representatives during the legislative session?	Not at all	1-2 times during the session	About once a week	Every other week or so	Monthly	Other (please specify)
	0	8	5	12	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have very good relationships with our DFL representatives and Senator, and it was easy to contact them as needed, sometimes informally.</li> <li>Differed by legislator and specific bill or issue.</li> <li>AH Schools is unique in that we have lobbyists and a government relations person in addition to the superintendent who communicates regularly with elected representatives. This is unusual for me as a former Supt. in WI. where BOE members were very involved during the legislative session. Board members have suggested greater involvement in future sessions.</li> </ul>
Did you find our communications helpful in establishing dialogue with your local legislators about key issues?	Not helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Comments		
		4	29			
Would you have liked to receive email communications and calls for engagement more or less frequently?	More frequently	Less frequently	The amount of communication was appropriate	What could make our legislative alerts better?		
	0	3	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates are very helpful as things move very quickly.</li> <li>the email updates were very helpful! I could find what I needed quickly.</li> <li>Personal anecdotes</li> <li>Looks good!</li> <li>I think the amount of information and methods to communicate with members is appropriate.</li> <li>Clear and timely communication</li> <li>Appreciate the updates. Their length is reasonable and I often refer back to them.</li> <li>Appreciate the content and format</li> <li>AMSD Communication is second to none! Keep up the great work!</li> </ul>		



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### AMSD EVENTS

*Importance of different hosted events throughout the Session and year*

<b>AMSD Monthly Board Meetings (no meeting in June or July)</b>	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
	1		3	7	24
<b>AMSD Policy Conference (Annually held in November)</b>	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
		1	8	8	14
<b>AMSD Legislative Preview (Annually held in January)</b>	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
			2	6	24
<b>Please share any topic ideas or suggestions for guest speakers for future AMSD board meetings.</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The virtual zoom option is invaluable.</li> <li>• Dignity Index (my board attended presentation at NSBA conference this spring)</li> <li>• District leadership team organization and development</li> <li>• Family engagement strategies (board or district), staff/student wellness, boards using effective leadership strategies</li> <li>• How to lead change management K12 innovation models in response to industry changes</li> <li>• I particularly appreciated hearing directly from legislators throughout the session and being given the opportunity to ask questions.</li> <li>• Legislator's perspectives about local control</li> <li>• Race and social justice; student speakers; teacher panels</li> <li>• superintendents who are using creative funding &amp; instructional strategies around CTE etc.</li> </ul>					
<b>Would you be interested in hearing a 15-20 minute presentation from AMSD member school districts highlighting a new program or initiative at the monthly board of directors meetings?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	21	5			
<b>Would you be interested in sharing a 15-20 presentation at a future board meeting to highlight a program or initiative in your school district?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	13	9			

**Please share any topic ideas you would like to see for the fall policy conference.**

- Cell phone, Title IX procedures
- Family Leave Act, Planning for teacher negotiations
- Happy to share anytime!
- Reuniting communities - how do we foster community given the on going violence, racism, and anger amongst people. How do we move from "I hate you" to "I wish you well"?
- Student Centered Learning, Effective Board Leadership, Negotiations strategies,
- student-centered learning; culturally responsive curriculum, managing difficult conversations or controversy within the community, racial and social justice
- There is value in learning with and from one another.
- Understanding PTA/PTSA/PTO organizations and best practices for successful communication and partnerships with these organizations
- More student advocates funding resources.

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## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### AMSD WEBSITE

*How often you visit the web page for the specific purposes*

Contact Information for AMSD Member Districts and Legislators	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
		3	22	7
Legislative Session Information	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	5	12	12	3
AMSD Position Papers	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
		7	17	7
Research and Statistics	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
		3	23	6
Current and Past AMSD Presentations	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
		6	22	4
Connections Newsletters	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	2	10	12	8
Board of Directors Meeting Handouts	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	4	22	4	2
Calendar of Meetings and Events	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	3-6 times a year	Never
	2	15	12	3
Other (please specify)				

*Website feedback: Is there any content not provided,  
or anything that could improve the usability of the AMSD web page?*

**Comments:**

- I don't have any suggestions. Thank you for all you do!
- I usually defer to the email and Connections information in lieu of going to the website for information. Additionally, I am not always astute at going to website at finding information even though it may be available to members.
- Nope!

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## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

### FINAL COMMENTS

#### Comments:

- Grateful for all you do for member districts and for AMSD!
- I appreciate Scott always being responsive to my questions during the legislative session - even though they may be pretty Bloomingtoncentric
- I would love a calendar invite for the monthly board meetings. When it is not on my calendar I forget about it and other things are scheduled.
- Keep up the exceptional work!
- Keep up the good work!
- Scott does a wonderful job in his role and is a tremendous advocate for us.
- Thank you for all of your work!
- THANK YOU!
- Thank you! I appreciate being part of AMSD. WELL DONE!
- Thanks for all you do. Keep up the great work!
- Thanks to you and Kimberly for the amazing work you do to support our students and families!
- None. AMSD does a great job of hosting speakers, topics, & pertinent info. for our Dist. & staff.

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