



PLSAS 2022 Legislative Platform

(Board Approved January 10, 2022)

Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.

Stabilize Educational Funding

- Utilize the current state surplus to provide additional funding on the formula for 2022-23.
- Link the basic formula and local optional revenue to inflation to provide a stable and consistent funding stream that allows school boards and administrators to engage in long-range planning to support academic and social emotional learning
- Increase Special Education and English Learner funding to reduce the large shortfalls in these important and mandated programs, alleviating the cross-subsidizing from the general fund.
 - PLSAS 2021-22 impact: \$6 million cross subsidy for Special Education
- Increase equalization of the operating referendum, local options, and debt service levies to reduce taxpayer and education funding disparities.
- Distribute remaining COVID funds based on Student Enrollment so all districts receive equitable funding.

Support Staffing Shortages and Diversify Teacher Workforce

- Provide support to remove barriers, sustain programs and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff.
- Provide funding to expand sustainable programs and incentives to attract, develop, and retain teachers of color.
- Maintain multiple pathways to the tiered licensure system, and provide funding to create incentives and alternative ways to enter the teaching profession.

School Safety

- Reinstate the \$30M Safe Schools funding from 2019 to allow for enhanced security and increasing support to address the mental health needs of students and staff. Increase allowable uses to include school counselors, social workers, chemical health counselors, etc.
- Revise the current Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D, to allow for the use of online interactive digital meetings when exceptional circumstances dictate to ensure safety for all, as long as requirements are met to promote transparency and engagement.

Reduce Mandates & Enhance Local Control and Flexibility

- Oppose any new underfunded or unfunded legislative mandates.
 - Ed-Fi, digital equity survey, SPED COVID-19 recovery mandates, CLP mandates
- Provide school districts the flexibility to adapt learning environments for positive student outcomes without loss of current ADM funding, and the ability to make decisions based on local needs, including:
 - school district discretion on E-learning days and remote learning options
 - school calendars, schedules and seat time requirements
 - assessments
- Amend the MN Gov Data Practices Act to authorize school districts and other units of local government to assess and recover all reasonable costs of fulfilling public data requests, including the cost of supplies, equipment, staff time, consultation with legal counsel, and other resources necessary to adequately search, retrieve, and redact private and confidential data, and prepare electronic files or printed documents for inspection or delivery of copies. Add language to impact individuals that illustrate a pattern of failure to show up for data inspection requests.

(Over)

COVID-19 Relief and Support

PLSAS is the bottom of 15% of district COVID-19 allocations. Provide funding for the following items due to the restrictions on the current COVID-19 funding and the continued needs.

- A COVID-19 team in coordination with local public health to help meet student, school district and community needs as a result of the pandemic
- Loss of revenue due to enrollment loss
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Additional staff time for cleaning and cleaning supplies
- Additional mental health professionals
- Technology, including hot spots, devices, and on-line curriculum